FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

30 DECEMBER 1983

PLO Affairs

'Arafat's Activities — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left the YAR for Tunis, where he will chair PLO Executive Committee and Fatah Central Committee meetings, INA announced citing a responsible Palestinian source. Fatah Central Committee member Hani al-Hasan told the agency that 'Arafat would visit Saudi Arabia en route to Tunis, while AFP cited an official source in Tunis who reported that 'Arafat would arrive there on 30 December.

Reacting to reports that the PLO Higher Military Council met in San'a', an As-Sa'iqah spokesman cited by Damascus radio stated that the meeting was not of the Military Council but rather between 'Arafat and "his clique of deviates." Because none of the Palestinian dissident groups attended, the meeting lacked a quorum and was therefore "unlawful," the spokesman warned, adding that all who attended must "appear before the legitimate Palestinian institutions" to account for their "crimes" against the Palestinian people and revolution.

Al-Yarmuk Camp — The Al-Yarmuk refugee camp near Damascus is surrounded and besieged by "mechanized Syrian forces and organs of the Syrian intelligence and public security" which waged an "intensive search and arrest campaign" in the wake of demonstrations in support of 'Arafat, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported.

Israel

Egyptian Talks — Egypt has asked Israel to allow members of the PNC who reside in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to attend the expected PNC session, according to Radio Monte Carlo, which maintained that this was one of the main topics Egyptian Deputy Foreign Minister Ash-Shafi'i 'Abd al-Hamid discussed during his visit to Israel. Though not linking it to 'Abd al-Hamid's visit, Jerusalem television asserted that the request is "actually asking Israel to help Yasir 'Arafat to ensure a majority for himself within the PLO," adding that "it is clear" Israel will reject the idea outright. Meanwhile, the Egyptian diplomat met with Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. The latter affirmed that Israel is prepared to resume autonomy talks including Jordanian and Palestinian representatives, though not 'Arafat or the PLO, Jerusalem radio said.

Bombings — Hand grenades exploded in two mosques in Hebron on 30 December injuring a watchman, IDF Radio announced. An anonymous telephone caller claimed that the two attacks were carried out by the "Terror Against Terror" group and that there would be more attacks on the West Bank, the radio added. Jerusalem radio reported that another anonymous caller claimed that the bombers were inhabitants of Qiryat Arba'.

Lebanon

Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan called for the reactivation of the Israeli-Lebanese liaison committee and asked it to "hold the Israelis responsible" for events in the south and for "aggravating the situation there" in remarks reported by Beirut radio. Al-Wazzan also urged Foreign Minister Elie Salim to "hold urgent contacts with the responsible international quarters concerned" and the United Nations to inform them of what is happening in the south and stressed the need to curb Israel's "repressive measures" against citizens in the area it controls.

The Lebanese ambassador to Switzerland and the head of Lebanese military intelligence met in Damascus with Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt on behalf of President Amin al-Jumayyil and held intensive talks on the security situation and the means for implementing the cease-fire, Radio Monte Carlo reported. The radio cited sources close to the delegation as stating that the talks were held in a "positive atmosphere." On the other hand, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported Junblatt's "misgivings" about the chances for achieving tangible results from the talks, citing his contention that the recent incidents in Beirut indicate the difficulty of holding a dialogue with the Lebanese Government.

Jordan

Assassination — One employee of the Jordanian Embassy in Madrid was killed and another wounded when an unidentified gunman opened fire on their car as they were leaving the embassy, a responsible source in the Jordanian Foreign Ministry cited by Amman radio announced. The source stressed that the perpetrators of the attack will be "duly punished."

The "Arab Revolutionary Brigade" claimed responsibility in an anonymous telephone call to AFP, stating that the attack took place because the Jordanian regime is "determined" to involve its Armed Forces in "rapid intervention forces," to negotiate with Israel, to support "the rotten 'Arafat clique," and to incarcerate "nationalist fighters." Madrid radio said Spanish police are "considering the theory" that the assailant, who escaped after the attack, is a member of the extremist Palestinian organization headed by Sabri al-Banna, also known as Abu Nidal.

Iran

In the wake of the bombings in Kuwait, 23 Iranians deported from the country arrived in Iran on 29 December, according to IRNA, which also cited the deportees on imprisonment and torture at the hands of the Kuwaiti police. Tehran radio's Arabic service reported that the Kuwaiti Government turned more than 4,500 "Muslim Iraqis" over to the Iraqi regime following an Iraqi request that the GCC member-states hand over 12,000 "under the pretext that they are wanted by this regime."

In an unattributed commentary the same service warned Kuwait that the arrest of a single Muslim, "whatever his nationality or sect, is tantamount to a declaration of war" and noted that "reason and self-interest make it necessary" for Kuwait to change its stands.

Kuwait

In a press statement published by *AL-ANBA'* and reported by KUNA,Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn said that the bombings early in December were primarily aimed at Kuwait's security and economy and that the attacks against the U.S. and French Embassies appear to have been "peripheral action." On the Iranian media's treatment of Kuwait, Husayn explained that Kuwaiti practice is not to respond to "such attacks" because they are "without foundation."

Iraq

Chief of Staff Staff General 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal was appointed minister of state for military affairs by a republican decree reported by INA.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

CONTENTS

Middle East & Africa

Vol V No 252 *30 December 1983*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

'Arafat Leaves San'a' For Tunis 30 Dec *[INA]* ..... A 1
Plot To Kill 'Arafat in Tripoli Revealed *[AR-RA'Y 30 Dec]* ..... A 1
As-Sa'iqah Statement on PLO San'a' Meeting *[Damascus]* ..... A 1
Fatah Official on Central Committee Meetings *[INA]* ..... A 1
Khalaf Denies Fatah Knew About 'Arafat Cairo Visit *[KUNA]* ..... A 2
PLO's Khalaf on Nature of Armed Struggle *[LE QUOTIDIEN 22 Dec]* ..... A 2
PLO's Nabil Sha'th on Saudi-Palestinian Relations *[Riyadh]* ..... A 4
Baghdad PLO Radio on Lebanese Operations ..... A 4

ARABIAN PENINSULA

KUWAIT

Official Issues Statement on Explosions ..... C 1

PDRY

Djibouti President, Delegation Visit for Talks ..... C 1
Arrival 29 Dec ..... C 1
Leaders Hold Official Talks ..... C 2

YAR

Prime Minister Delivers Government Plan ..... C 2

EGYPT

Mubarak AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI Interview on Policy ..... D 1
Mubarak Interview With Kuwaiti Editors Reported ..... D 9
On Camp David Accords *[KUNA 29 Dec]* ..... D 9
More on Peace Process *[KUNA 29 Dec]* ..... D 9
U.S. Seeks PLO Dialogue ..... D 10
Al-Baz To Take Mubarak Message to Husayn ..... D 10
Mubarak Receives Thank-you Cable From Kuwaiti Amir ..... D 11
'Ali Invited To Visit Iraq; Date To Be Set ..... D 11
Mubarak Cables Good Wishes to Ceausescu ..... D 11
CSSR Deputy Foreign Minister To Visit Cairo ..... D 11

IRAQ

Spokesman Announces Downing of 2 Iranian Planes ..... E 1
Armed Forces General Command Communique No 1,325 ..... E 1
Papers Warn Iran on Effects of Continued War ..... E 1
Saddam Husayn Meets PRC Congress Delegation ..... E 1
Ramadan Receives PRC Official ..... E 1
Ramadan Receives Message From Romanian Premier ..... E 1
Shanshal Appointed Minister for Military Affairs ..... E 2
Pro-Shari'atmadari Clergy Arrested in Iran ..... E 2

JORDAN

Embassy Employee in Spain Killed by Gunfire ..... F 1
Group Claims Credit *[AFP]* ..... F 1
AR-RA'Y Reaction ..... F 1
Education Minister, U.S. Envoy Meet on UNESCO ..... F 1
AR-RA'Y Views Withdrawal *[29 Dec]* ..... F 2
Trade Union Statement on 'Arafat Visit Denied *[SAWT ASH-SHA'B 29 Dec]* ..... F 2
Moroccan Minister Delivers Message, Departs ..... F 3

LEBANON

Envoy Reaffirms U.S. Commitment To Al-Jumayyil ..... G 1
Salim, Soviet Envoy Review Political Situation ..... G 1
Soldatov on Soviet Role *[Radio Free Lebanon]* ..... G 1
Calls For Israeli, MNF Withdrawal ..... G 1
Salim Addresses Ministry Employees on Policy ..... G 1
Envoys, Junblatt Meet in 'Positive' Atmosphere *[Radio Monte Carlo]* ..... G 1
Security Committee Meets in 'Positive' Atmosphere ..... G 1
Arranges Cease-Fire ..... G 2
Mosques To Stage General Sit-In 30 Dec ..... G 2

SYRIA

Nuclear Energy Agreement With USSR Ratified ..... H 1
Moroccan Minister Arrives With Message 29 Dec ..... H 1
Received by Khaddam ..... H 1
AL-BA'TH on 'Arafat's 'Plot,' Camp David ..... H 1
Damascus Radio on 'Arafat's 'Treasonous Moves' ..... H 1

ISRAEL

Cabinet Session Held, No Decisions Issued ..... I 1
Further on Cabinet Session ..... I 1
New Economic Policy Includes 'No New Measures' ..... I 1
Kohen-Orgad on Budget Cuts ..... I 1
Kimche Meets With Visiting Egyptian Minister ..... I 1
Al-Hamid Departs 30 Dec ..... I 2
West Bank, Gaza PNC Members Discussed With Envoy *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* ..... I 2
PNC Conference Attendance Sought ..... I 2
Bombs Explode at Two Hebron Mosques 30 December ..... I 2
More Attacks Threatened ..... I 2
TNT Claims Responsibility ..... I 3
Lebanon Overflights Draw Syrian Fire 29 Dec ..... I 3
MK Yitzhaq Rabin Assesses Relations With U.S. *[THE JERUSALEM POST 30 Dec]* ..... I 3
Labor Party Favors Withdrawal From Lebanon ..... I 5
Labor Party Group Condemns Hebron Explosions ..... I 5
Herut Secretariat Calls for Support for Kohen-Orgad ..... I 5
Peace Now Protests Against Settlements ..... I 5
Civil Service Workers Continue Protest Actions *[THE JERUSALEM POST 30 Dec]* ..... I 5
Aircraft Industries, Tadiran To Produce Drone ..... I 6
Wave of Terrorist Attacks Predicted *[YOMAN HASHAVU'A 29 Dec]* ..... I 6
Morning Newsreel To Adopt New Format 1 January *['AL HAMISHMAR 29 Dec]* ..... I 6
Ansarit Camp for Women Terrorists Reported *[BAMAHANE 28 Dec]* ..... I 6

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

SWAPO Leader Sam Nujoma Pays Brief Visit ..... Q 1

Received by Foreign Minister ..... Q 1
Departure From Algiers ..... Q 1

LIBYA

People's Congresses Discuss Foreign Relations ..... Q 1

SUDAN

Numayri Briefs Cabinet on Recent Visits ..... Q 1
Numayri Receives Moroccan Envoy, Invitation ..... Q 1
More on Summit Invitation ..... Q 1

EAST AFRICA

SOMALIA

Siad Barre Stresses Country's Hunger, Poverty *[ANSA]* ..... R 1

TANZANIA

Cooperation Communique Signed With Comoros ..... R 1

CENTRAL AFRICA

CHAD

GUNT Official Comments on Addis Ababa Meeting ..... S 1

CONGO

Communique From Sassou-Nguesso Angola Visit ..... S 1

ZAIRE

Soviet Maritime Delegation Visits Bas-Zaire ..... S 2
2º Dec Departure ..... S 2
Mobutu Sese Seko, Houphouet-Boigny Exchange Notes ..... S 2
President Promulgates 1984 National Budget ..... S 2

WEST AFRICA

NIGERIA

President Shagari Delivers Address on Budget ..... T 1
Government Repatriates 355 Illegal Aliens ..... T 8

SENEGAL

French Defense Minister Arrives in Dakar 28 Dec ..... T 8

UPPER VOLTA

Communique Changes Dean of Diplomatic Corps ..... T 8

SOUTHERN AFRICA

ANGOLA

Defense Ministry Communique Notes 29 Dec RSA Raid ..... U 1

BOTSWANA

Minister Kwelagobe Tours Zimbabwe Border Area ..... U 1

LESOTHO

Prime Minister Jonathan Announces Election Plans ..... U 1

MOZAMBIQUE

National Resistance Movement Issues Communique *[Voice of Mozambique National Resistance]* ..... U 1

SOUTH AFRICA

Viljoen Announces Air Attack on SWAPO Base ..... U 3
Details of Press Conference ..... U 3
SWAPO Seen in Decline ..... U 4
Lt Gen Gleeson Remarks ..... U 5
Supreme Court Convicts Gerhardts of High Treason ..... U 5
Espionage Reportedly Admitted ..... U 5

ZAMBIA

Cuban Envoy Reaffirms Support for SWAPO, ANC *[PANA]* ..... U 5

'Arafat Leaves San'a' For Tunis 30 Dec

JN300824 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] San'a', 30 Dec (INA) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat today concluded a 5-day visit to the YAR and left San'a' for Tunis. During his visit, 'Arafat chaired a Palestinian Military Council meeting and held talks with YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on Palestinian developments.

In a statement today, a responsible Palestinian source said that upon his arrival in Tunis, 'Arafat will chair a PLO Executive Committee meeting and a Fatah Central Committee meeting to discuss Palestinian developments, issues concerning Palestinian fighters in host Arab countries, and the political and military situation of the Palestinian revolution.

Plot To Kill 'Arafat in Tripoli Revealed

JN301159 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 30 Dec 83 pp 1, 15

[Sulayman al-Qudah dispatch]

[Excerpts] Nabil 'Amr, director general of the Baghdad Voice of Palestine radio and a member of the Fatah Revolutionary Council, arrived in Amman from San'a' yesterday after meeting with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

Speaking to *AR-RA'Y*, 'Amr said that the PLO considers Egypt to be the only Arab side that extended decisive assistance that helped to avert a disaster for 'Arafat and his men at Tripoli. Israel and Syria decided that all of them should die in the port of Tripoli. Ten mines were uncovered and removed from under the ships that were to transfer the fighters. Had they exploded when the fighters were about to leave, the sea would have been filled with the blood and bodies of the Palestinian fighters. 'Amr said that 'Arafat praised Egypt's basic role in averting a disaster during the Palestinian withdrawal through Egypt's pressure on Israel and the United States.

Concluding, 'Amr said: We would like to affirm that there are no political concessions at the expense of the PNC programs, but there is a serious approach aimed at obtaining Egypt's support to realize these programs.

As-Sa'iqah Statement on PLO San'a' Meeting

JN291736 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] An official spokesman of the Popular Liberation War Vanguards-As-Sa'iqah Forces has stated the following: Having lost his legitimacy as chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution, Yasir 'Arafat resorted as usual to forgery and deception when he claimed that the Palestinian revolution's Higher Military Council met under his chairmanship on 27 December 1983. In view of this exposed forgery, we in the As-Sa'iqah Forces would like to point out the following:

Having lost his legitimacy as chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the revolution forces, 'Arafat has no right to head such a meeting, especially since 'Arafat, who has violated the resolutions of the PNC sessions, is considered an outlaw.

What was described as a meeting of the Higher Military Council was in fact a meeting between 'Arafat and his clique of deviates. Therefore, it was a meeting of a clique of rebels and outlaws.

Third [as heard] none of the representatives of the Palestinian revolution groups or the upheaval movement in Fatah attended this alleged meeting. Therefore, it was an unlawful meeting by virtue of the absence of the majority, and all decisions made by that meeting are null and void.

Fourth, 'Arafat and his clique who attended the meeting must appear before the legitimate Palestinian institutions to account for the crimes they committed against the Palestinian Arab people and the Palestinian revolution. When these people rebel against Palestinian legitimacy and reject its decisions, they become a gang of outlaws. Therefore, any meeting they hold becomes a conspiratorial meeting against the Palestinian revolution.

In view of these facts, we in the As-Sa'iqah Forces, while pitying 'Arafat's ridiculous attempts to pose as the legitimate leader, warn him against such games and deceptions and affirm at the same time that we in the Palestinian revolution will continue to follow our correct struggle course. The revolution groups on the battlefield alone have the right and powers to discuss the affairs of the fighters and the areas of their deployment in the face of the Israeli-imperialist-reactionary enemy. The plotters who have fled from the real battlefield only discuss the liquidation of the cause and the removal of the rifles from the hands of their supporters, who they dispersed in distant countries of exile.

Fatah Official on Central Committee Meetings

JN292020 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Tunis, 29 Dec (INA) — Fatah Central Committee member Abu Mahir [Muhammad Ghunaym] has said that the Fatah Central Committee meetings will begin when all members, including Yasir 'Arafat; Abu al-Adib [Salim az-Za'nun], PLO representative in Kuwait and the Arab Gulf; and Abu Shakir [Rafiq an-Natshah], PLO representative in Saudi Arabia, arrive in Tunis.

In a statement to an INA correspondent in Tunis, Abu Mahir added that contacts and consultations with the Fatah Central Committee members outside Tunis have not stopped since the departure of the fighters from Tripoli. These contacts, he said, deal with all the affairs pertaining to the current stage.

He pointed out that the Fatah Central Committee will discuss the Palestinian situation after the departure of the Palestinian revolution forces from northern Lebanon, in addition to Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo and the Central Committee's position on this visit as expressed in its statement. He said that Abu Ammar will explain his viewpoint in this regard. He denied the presence of any prejudgment in this respect.

He denied knowledge of an Arab tour Abu 'Ammar reportedly wanted to make. Regarding the PNC meetings, he said that this will be fixed in light of the resolutions to be adopted by the PLO Executive Committee and the Fatah Central Committee and after holding contacts and consultations with [words indistinct] the factions which supported the Palestinian revolution in the battle for the independent Palestinian decision.

Abu Mahir denied that a date has been fixed for a Fatah congress, adding that the PLO Executive Committee and Fatah Central Committee will adopt resolutions on various topics, including this one.

Khalaf Denies Fatah Knew About 'Arafat Cairo Visit
LD291847 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1705 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Tunis, 29 December (KUNA) — Salah Khalaf alias Abu Iyad, Fatah Central Committee member, said here today that the PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat did not consult his colleagues in the Fatah Movement about his visit to Cairo.

Khalaf told KUNA "We were taken by surprise by Abu 'Ammar's visit to Cairo and we had no advance knowledge of it either implicitly or explicitly."

President Husni Mubarak had stated in an interview with Kuwaiti newspaper editors, published in Kuwait today, that "according to his information, 'Arafat secured the agreement of his colleagues before embarking on his visit to Cairo last Thursday.

President Mubarak, however, pointed out that he knew nothing about the visit of the Palestinian leader to Cairo until 24 hours before it took place.

A high-ranking diplomatic source has stated that the Egyptian president had helped in securing 'Arafat's departure from northern Lebanon. The source, who did not want to be named, said that during the Israeli naval seige of Tripoli, 'Arafat had telephoned a high-level Arab official with close connections with the American officials and asked him about American guarantees for his departure with his fighters from Tripoli. The diplomatic source said that "the high-ranking Arab official told Abu 'Ammar that the Americans have refused to give any guarantees." the source added "thereupon, 'Arafat had no alternative but to get in touch with the Egyptian president to get out of the impasse in which he found himself with the Israelis blocking the sea route and the Fatah dissidents and other Palestinian detachments opposed to him blocking his land route."The diplomatic source said that 'Arafat met with response from President Mubarak during his telephone conversation. The Egyptian president affirmed that he would place his personal influence and that of Egypt behind securing Abu 'Ammar's safe departure from the seige.

The source said that "For the first time in a long time Mubarak telephoned Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and told him that Egypt considers 'Arafat's safe departure from Tripoli fully an Egyptian cause which would determine the future of the frozen relations between Cairo and Tel Aviv."

The source affirmed "that the visit that Ash-Shafi'i 'Abd al-Hamid, assistant to the Egyptian foreign minister, is paying now to Tel Aviv is the first installment the Egyptian Government is paying to the Israeli Government on the road to the normalization of the relations in return for Israel's agreement to insure 'Arafat's safe departure."

The source quoted some 'Arafat confidants as saying after they met with him recently in San'a' "that Abu 'Ammar, who left Tripoli with no destination in mind, sought by his visit to Egypt to create a shock wave in the Arab and international worlds which would bring the Palestine question back to the arena of hot events."

Though many here expect 'Arafat to arrive in Tunis tomorrow at noon, some Palestinian circles doubt whether Abu 'Ammar would accept to come on what looks like a "summons" from members of the Fatah Central Committee in Tunis "to account for his visit to Cairo." These circles base their doubts on the fact that Abu 'Ammar, who has succeeded in winning the support of the Palestinian Military Council for his political moves during the Council's San'a' meeting under his chairmanship, now feels that he holds all or at least most of the important cards in the Palestinian arena. This might prompt him to make decisions more autocratically than before.

Mubarak told the Kuwaiti paper editors that his country has helped in 'Arafat's departure from Tripoli saying "we were the ones who enabled him to pass through the canal and we were the ones who took him out of Tripoli."

PLO's Khalaf on Nature of Armed Struggle
PM291718 Paris LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS in French 22 Dec 83 p 20

[Interview with PLO leadership member Salah Khalaf by Dominique Lagarde in Tunis — date not given]

[Text]*LE QUOTIDIEN*: The PLO no longer has any fighters on Israel's borders, and despite the concessions made by the Palestinian resistance, the diplomatic efforts of the past 18 months seem to have failed. In these conditions what "post-Tripoli" strategy might the PLO adopt?

Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf]: The PLO has two kinds of fighters--those who are in our military bases who are known to all, and those who are underground. The continuation of the armed struggle now rests with the latter until we are capable of returning our troops to the borders. As regards our political activity, we intend to stand by the options defined at our last National Council meeting.

LE QUOTIDIEN: Is there not some inconsistency between, on the one hand, the continuation of the armed struggle through commando groups to which you refer and, on the other, your political strategy, which aims in particular at securing the Western countries' diplomatic support?

Abu Iyad: I do not think there is any inconsistency. The Western countries have experienced Nazi and fascist occupation, and

they too resorted to armed struggle to regain their independence. Nobody criticized them for that. Our past experience showed us that without the armed struggle, we could not make our voice heard. During the first 18 years which followed the creation of the Israeli state, we refrained from fighting militarily and nobody helped us then. It was only after 1965, when we began the armed struggle, that people began to realize that there was a problem and cause. We are not fighting for the pleasure of fighting but to win our rights.

LE QUOTIDIEN: When you speak of pursuing the armed struggle, do you mean pursuing it inside Palestine alone or do you also envisage actions in other countries?

Abu Iyad: In Palestine alone. We are not in favor of taking action in foreign countries. At the end of the sixties some Palestinian groups thought it was possible to draw the public's attention to our cause by hijacking aircraft, for instance. But our cause has grown and it is now out of the question for us to resort to that kind of action.

LE QUOTIDIEN: You say that there is no inconsistency between continuing the armed struggle and diplomatic action, but are you not likely to lose your credibility with the Israeli "peace camp" with which you have started a dialogue? Prominent Palestinians from the West Bank who nonetheless support Yasir 'Arafat recently dissociated themselves from the attack on a bus in Jerusalem.

Abu Iyad: Our orders in that affair were not to attack civilians. This must be made quite clear: We are opposed to attacks on civilians. We are opposed to the killing of children or civilians anywhere in the world. Mistakes are sometimes made, but our aim is to attack the Israeli army, which constantly attacks us. It is also clear that if serious negotiations were to be opened with a view to a peaceful settlement we would immediately end our military actions. But so far there has been no serious peace proposal even within the Israeli peace camp. When there is one we will use only diplomacy.

As regards the prominent Palestinians who criticized the Jerusalem attack, they are entitled to their viewpoint, and since it was civilians who were killed, we understand their position.

LE QUOTIDIEN: You have decided to resume negotiations with Jordan. What is the objective of this dialogue? Does it mean that you intend to base your future action on an alliance and joint action with Jordan?

Abu Iyad: The Palestinians and Jordanians are one people. We place only one condition on the resumption of our dialogue with Jordan: that the negotiations do not relate to the Reagan plan. The Reagan plan does not mention the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. It cannot give us a state or a nation. We can obtain that not by the Reagan plan but by the Fes plan, which makes provision for the creation of a Palestinian state which we will negotiate with the Jordanians. I think that the Jordanians are beginning to realize that the only useful negotiations between them and us must be based on the Fes plan. But, to be frank, I do not think there will be a political solution at present because the balance of forces is in Israeli's favor. In my view there will not be a political solution in the near future. Not because we do not want one but because the Israelis do not want one. In view of the existing balance of forces in the region, I do not think that the United States wants to exert pressure on Israel.

LE QUOTIDIEN: During the PLO's existence there have been more Palestinians killed by Arabs than by Israelis. How do you explain that, and what is your analysis of the Syrian attitude to the Palestinian resistance?

Abu Iyad: Unfortunately you are right. This shows the complexity of the Palestinian problem, and it also shows the Americans' ability to prevent any solution to the Palestinian problem by using their agents in the region. Some Arabs have slowed the course of our revolution either because of U.S. pressures or because they do not believe in our cause or our rights. Our main problem with Syria is that country's desire to take over our political decisionmaking.

LE QUOTIDIEN: Why do you think Syria finally agreed to allow Yasir 'Arafat to leave Tripoli?

Abu Iyad: The Syrian plan is to hound all the Palestinian fighters from the Al-Biqa' until not a single commando is there. 'Arafat's withdrawal is part of that plan. They realized that it was not easy to crush Abu 'Ammar, so Saudi Arabia intervened and they drew up this agreement making it possible for him to leave.

LE QUOTIDIEN: If you think about what has happened over the past 2 or 3 years, do you not think that it was a mistake to exclude Egypt from the Arab world?

Abu Iyad: Nobody excluded Egypt. It was Egypt which chose to place itself outside the Arab world with the Camp David agreements. But we draw a distinction between As-Sadat and Mubarak. We are trying to draw closer to Egypt to the extent that it is able to draw closer to us. We know how much value and importance Egypt has for the Arab world, and for us Palestinians more than anybody else. The countdown has begun with Egypt.

LE QUOTIDIEN: Will there soon be another PNC meeting? Will some groups, like that of Ahmad Jibril, or As-Sa'iqah he expelled from the PLO?

Abu Iyad: We plan to hold another National Council meeting, but not immediately. We must first prepare for it. The question is being examined. If the council meets and the problems that we have with Syria and the pro-Syrian groups are not solved by then, we will obviously have no choice but to expel them. Those organizations are extensions of Arab regimes through the PLO.

LE QUOTIDIEN: Are you not afraid that in the absence of a political solution we will see in the future, on the one hand, a tendency among the Palestinians in the occupied territories to want to negotiate with the Israelis without the PLO, and, on the other, the emergence of much more radical groups outside the occupied territories, especially among young people?

Abu Iyad: During this recent crisis the population of the occupied territories has shown that it supports the PLO. Consequently

the danger you mention does not exist. As regards your second question, the movement's leadership must guide those young people.

LE QUOTIDIEN: What role do you think France could play?

Abu Iyad: France played an excellent and entirely positive role during this recent crisis. That shows that the French Government and French people support our cause, and our people greatly appreciate that.

LE QUOTIDIEN: Would you like France to take new initiatives? In particular would you like the Franco-Egyptian draft resolution, which has been frozen in the United Nations for 18 months, to be revived?

Abu Iyad: The United States insists that its proposals alone be taken into account and that it will veto any proposal presented to the United Nations. But that must not prevent the French Government from being with us. France can play a positive role either within the EC or in the United Nations. That is what we expect of it in the near future.

LE QUOTIDIEN: But is the PLO prepared to accept all the terms of that draft resolution?

Abu Iyad: Self-determination is in the Franco-Egyptian draft. That is positive.

LE QUOTIDIEN: Yes, but that is not all. There is also mutual recognition...

LE QUOTIDIEN: We want to secure our right to self-determination. If we have self-determination then...

LE QUOTIDIEN: Some Palestinian officials recently spoke of negotiations with a view to a visit to France by Yasir 'Arafat in the near future. Can you confirm this?

Abu Iyad: Yasir 'Arafat has wanted to come to France for a long time, but conditions have been posed by the French authorities and more especially by Francois Mitterrand, which mean that this plan is not easy to implement. Mitterrand wants Yasir 'Arafat to take another step toward recognizing Israel. This is a very delicate problem for us because it is our only trump card. But we hope that that visit can take place. Mitterrand was to meet with 'Arafat during his visit to Tunis, but 'Arafat was in Tripoli at that time.

PLO's Nabil Sha'th on Saudi-Palestinian Relations

GF300644 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Nabil Sha'th, political advisor to the PLO Executive Committee chairman, has asserted that relations between the Kingdom and the PLO are strategic. He noted that the Kingdom has never stopped its local, regional and international support tothe Palestinian people for their right to self-determination and to establish their state.

In a statement to today's issue of the newspaper *'UKAZ*, Nabil Sha'th said: We will not forget His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz' honorable Arab stand in support for the PLO's legitimate leadership and his use of all means to ensure the safe exit of Yasir 'Arafat and our fighters from Tripoli. The Kingdom always supports the resolutions that the Palestinian people adopt through their PNC. It has never pressured us. Our dealings with it have always been based on dialogue and respect for our independent decisionmaking, he said.

Baghdad PLO Radio on Lebanese Operations

JN291840 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1619 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Israeli invasion forces in southern Lebanon were subjected yesterday to several daring operations that were carried out by the Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance fighters. Theyattacked an enemy convoy on a road leading to Az-Zahrani with rocket shells and hand grenades. Reports said that two Zionist soldiers were killed and three others were wounded as a result of destroying one military vehicle and hitting another. The resistance fightersclashed with the convoy elements for 10 minutes. The invasion forces then encircled the area and helicopters were seen moving the wounded soldiers from the scene.

A second convoy was subjected to a similar attack in the An-Nabatiyah area. Casualties were not known due the blackout that has been clamped on by the Zionist invasion forces, however, eyewitnesses said that ambulances were seen rushing to the scene, which emphasizes the presence of several casualties among enemy soldiers.

Thirty minutes after this incident, resistance fighters attacked an enemy patrol on (?Maqdushiah) road south of Sidon with RPG and automatic guns, killing a Zionist officer, wounding several soldiers, and destroying a military vehicle. Immediately after the incident, the Zionist invasion forces besieged the area and carried out intensive search operations for those who launchedthe attack. The resistance fighters returned safely to base.

KUWAIT

Official Issues Statement on Explosions

LD291302 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1054 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Kuwait, 29 Dec (KUNA) — In a press statement published here today, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn said the explosions which took place in the middle of this month were primarily aimed at Kuwait's security and economy, and the attack on the U.S. and French embassies appears to have been a peripheral action.

In the statement published by *AL-ANBA* today, the minister of state explained that following the explosions on 12 December, the Kuwaiti Government made a point of placing all the facts before public opinion, in response to our people's right to know everything that takes place in their society.

Regarding the continuing attacks on Kuwait by the Iranian information media, 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn said: It is our general practice not to respond to such attacks because on the one hand they are without foundation, and on the other our people are stronger than to be affected by them.

He added, with regard to the explosions: A great deal of effort went into planning them. It required experts and funds, as well as the time to prepare. There must be among the perpetrators those who knew the country and the sensitive places. He pointed out that the attack was aimed primarily at crippling the state's main utilities — such as air links — disrupting energy supplies, and halting the supply of general utilities dependent on energy supplies, as well as destroying an industrial center of particular importance.

The explosions were aimed at the U.S. and French embassies, the control tower at Kuwait airport, two residential centers for Americans citizens, the observation and monitoring center of the Ministry of Electricity, and an oil refinery unit in the industrial area of Shu'aybah.

'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn remarked that the attack on the U.S. and French embassies appears to be a peripheral action with only limited effect on the lives of citizens. The Kuwaiti minister of state praised the security apparatus which played a great part in solving the crime so quickly, as well as the people's vigilance and cooperation, which was a great help in finding the perpetrators of the crime.

He said the driver of the vehicle which rushed the American Embassy was blown to pieces, and that one of his thumbs was found among other parts of his body. This allowed the experts to compare it with other body fragments, and they were satisfied that it belonged to the dead man. After scientifically examining the thumb prints with those held by the security apparatus, the person was immediately identified, as was his residence, place of work and all other details pertaining to him. This led security officers to the rest of his accomplices.

With regard to the accused, and how they managed to enter the country, Husayn said Kuwait is open to the world. The population includes a large number of citizens from other Arab countries who live alongside their Kuwaiti brothers in an atmosphere of peace and friendship. They enter the country in accordance with the laws which regulate visits and residence. [passage indistinct]

He pointed out that the state welcomes all who reside in Kuwait legally. But those who infiltrate into the country or who violate residence regulations will be arrested and deported. There will be firmer measures to enforce regulations in order to plug any gap in the security wall.

With regard to Kuwait's future policy and whether what happened will influence it, 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn said Kuwait is known for its balanced and moderate policy at home and abroad, and it will not change this policy no matter what happens. Indeed, these incidents will only increase Kuwait's adherence to its values and principles. And this policy is backed by the people's will, represented by the National Assembly.

On the question of whether Kuwait intends to call for an emergency meeting of GCC member-states' interior ministers to discuss what happend in Kuwait, the minister of state said the Arabian Gulf states have shown their sensitivity for what happened. He said coordination and cooperation among the GCC states exists in the best manner and therefore there is no need for such a call.

PDRY

Djibouti President, Delegation Visit for Talks

Arrival 29 Dec

GF291344 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Djibouti President Hassan Gouled arrived in Aden today on a visit to the PDRY that will last several days. He is accompanied by a high-ranking delegation.

The guest was accorded an official welcome. He was welcomed by 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers; members of the Political Bureau; members of the YSP Central Committee; ministers; officials; heads of diplomatic missions; and representatives of liberation movements in Aden.

In a statement, Hassan Gouled expressed pleasure at making the visit which, he said, is within the framework of the brotherly cooperation between the two fraternal countries. He expressed thanks at the warm welcome accorded to him and to the delegation accompanying him.

The delegation accompanying President Gouled includes Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Minister Moumin Bahdon Farah, Interior Minister Yusuf Ali Shirdon, Agriculture and Rural Development Minister Ahmed Hassan Liban, Industry and Industrial Development Minister Fahmy Ahmed el Hag, and other officials.

Leaders Hold Official Talks

GF291547 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Official talks between the PDRY and fraternal Djibouti were held today. Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, led the PDRY side. President Hassan Gouled Apidon led the Djibouti side.

The two sides discussed bilateral relations in various fields, plans for developing these relations, the current Arab situation, and the stands of the PDRY and Djibouti toward the Arab situation.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad expressed satisfaction with the visit which he said will strengthen the good relations between the two fraternal countries — relations which have been characterized by good-neighborliness. He said: The exchange of visits and joint meetings will serve the interests of our people and the causes of our Arab peoples.

Brother Hassan Gouled expressed pleasure with his visit to the PDRY and with his meeting with 'Ali Nasir Muhammad — a visit that comes within the framework of strengthening the fraternal relations between the two countries. He expressed his gratitude for the sentiments shown on his arrival in his second homeland among his brothers in the PDRY, and noted the historic relations that bind the peoples of the PDRY and Djibouti.

On the PDRY side, the talks were attended by the ministers of foreign affairs, interior and industry; the director of the People's Police in the Aden governorate; the PDRY ambassador to Djibouti; and the director of the Arab Homeland Department at the Foreign Ministry. On the Djibouti side the talks were attended by the ministers of foreign affairs and cooperation, interior and industry; the director general of the presidency's secretariat; the director of police and passports; the Djibouti ambassador to Saudi Arabia; an adviser to the Foreign Ministry; and the chief of protocol.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad today hosted a luncheon in honor of the PDRY's guest, President Hassan Gouled, and the delegation accompanying him.

YAR

Prime Minister Delivers Government Plan

GF252008 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the armed forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received at his office this morning Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Standing Committee, who delivered to the brother leader president and secretary of the General People's Congress the statement of the new government, which includes the government's plan for the coming stage in light of the historical message addressed by the brother president on 26 November 1983 to the prime minister and members of the cabinet, and which was discussed by the cabinet at its extraordinary session on the same day.

Following is the text of the government's statement which confirms its commitment to all the principles noted in the message of the brother leader president and secretary general:

This general plan is aimed at overcoming the challenges which confront the will of progress through confident, radical, stylish, and programmed steps in the course of development and modernization,and is aimed at coping with the demands of the age on the basis of the fact that we should be capable of rewriting our glories in the shadow of the charter stage. This objective can only be achieved, in our view, according to the contents of your historical message, through the serious and sincere work for the sake of crystalizing the contents of our national charter which emerges from the Islamic belief of our people, and from the purity of the six principles of the immortal 26 September Revolution, as well as from the deep feelings of the masses and their legitimate ambitions.

While I and my colleagues — the members of the government — are proud of the valuable confidence which you showed in us, we will pay close attention to the contents of the historical message which you gave us and which contained all the fundamentals necessary to organize the government's work program during the coming stage of our developmental march in the various economic and social fields. We will deepen the spirit of cooperation and coordination among the sectors of the Yemeni society and the branches of its activities with all its organizations, and carry out the comprehensive economic and social development plan and its development programs, with the policies and strategies on which it is based.

Since the new government accepted its task under difficult economic circumstances, we should affirm that the new government will make strong efforts to confront these difficulties and overcome them. The economic situation in our country is due not onlyto pure economic factors but also other factors, foremost of which are the drought and the effects of the severe earthquake which hit important parts of our country.

The government will continue its efforts to strengthen our country's relations with all the fraternal Arab countries and to expand fields of cooperation and coordination between our country and these countries by activating common ministerial coordination councils within the framework of the Arab League and its operating organizations.

We will exert intense efforts to establish Arab solidarity, eliminate all differences facing the Arab nation and achieve Arab rapproachment to meet the demands of the common national destiny both at present and in the future so that the Arab nation can confront all challenges and imperialist plots.

Mubarak AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI Interview on Policy
NC281943 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1735 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Paris, 28 Dec (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak has granted an interview to Dr Nabil al-Mughrabi, editor in chief of the Paris-based magazine *AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI*. The interview will appear in the magazine's Friday issue. The following is the text of the interview:

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: Your meeting with Yasir 'Arafat has aroused wide-scale uproar and many reactions. However, what counts now is the future and outlining of the post-meeting phase. On the level of the endeavors to solve the Middle East crisis, did Your Excellency agree with 'Arafat on specific practical steps and coordination between Cairo and the PLO regarding these steps in the future?

President Mubarak: Yasir 'Arafat came to Cairo and I received him here at Al-Qubbah Palace. He sat in the same chair I am now sitting in. That was our first meeting after a rupture of 6 years and therefore, you should not expect me to talk to him about the past or to blame him. On the contrary, we in Egypt welcomed him the moment he arrived in Port Sa'id. I delegated the prime minister to Isma'ilia the very next day to receive him. I later sent a plane that brought him to Cairo. Naturally, time was not sufficient to discuss all topics. However, we talked in particular on the current situation and what happened to him in Lebanon. He briefed me in detail on the bitter fighting in Tripoli. In fact, I frankly told him the following:

First, we are approaching the most dangerous year regarding the future of the Arab cause because it is a year of U.S. elections.

Second, the new year is crucial and consequently, we must quickly gain time in order not to be confronted by the elections, and in this way the cause will not be lost.

Third, if this year passes without us reaching anything regarding the cause, the problem will be aggravated: The settlements will intensify and we will find ourselves facing a fait accompli. Undoubtedly, we face a most critical year for the Arab cause. This is happening at a time when Arabs are preoccupied with the Lebanese war and inter-Palestinian fighting instead of making the Palestinian cause the focus of Arab attention, something that Egypt has been advocating.

'Arafat has promised me the following:

First, to reorganize the internal structure of the Palestinian home;

Second, to discuss or terminate the question of the dissidents who fought against him;

Third, to hold the necessary contacts to discover the landmarks of the future phase as soon as possible; and

Fourth, to hold contacts with King Husayn preparatory to holding other contacts with all the other parties and to outline the results that could be reached.

I replied that there should be a step as soon as possible to push and activate the peace process before it is too late.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: In view of the meeting with 'Arafat, do you believe that he is still strong in the PLO. Some say that he lost a great deal of position and influence.

President Mubarak: I disagree with this view. I do not believe that 'Arafat's position has been weakened. Moreover, I say that if the Palestinians lose 'Arafat they themselves will be lost. It will then be difficult to [words indistinct]. The world will ask: With whom are we to deal? We have said everywhere that 'Arafat is a moderate leader and the whole world knows the PLO through him.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: But, do you believe that 'Arafat has actually overcome the difficult phase, that he will end the Fatah crisis, and reimpose his leadership, or that the dissidents will succeed in imposing a new leadership? Frankly, what is your own information in this respect?

President Mubarak: Frankly, we have no final information on this. But let me ask: Which new leadership do they want and who will be convinced with the new leadership? Will the various Palestinian groups be convinced? We say thank God that we had agreed on a responsible man to lead the organization. If any of the groups want to create an alternative leadership no two can disagree that divisions will increase within Palestinian circles. They will begin striking one another in 5 to 6 months. Some parties will exploit these differences to keep the Palestinians preoccupied in peripheral conflicts and even to end the question itself. There will be 5 to 6 months of conflicts. What will remain from the new year — the year of the U.S. elections? There will remain 6 months. My view is that they must come together and end the abuses before it is too late.

It is my assessment that if we fail to agree on important steps toward a solution before the end of 1984 the future of the question will be extremely bad and serious. Israel will continue to intensify the settlements in the West Bank and Gaza and world opinion will accept the fait accompli, particularly when it finds that thousands of settlers have inhabited the West Bank and Gaza and subsequently will not demand the demolition of their homes and forcible ouster. This is a difficult matter.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: Certain people are saying that Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] made a mistake in going to Tripoli; that he departed the city for diaspora without achieving anything; and that this will definitely affect his future. You do not seem to share this view. Do you think that Abu 'Ammar gained anything from the Tripoli battle and emerged strong?

President Mubarak: In my view, yes; he emerged from Tripoli stronger than when he entered it.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: How?

President Mubarak: First, he did not surrender and proved competent in combat, although, regrettably, the fighting was between Palestinian forces backed by other parties. This was a great service to Israel. Is there a greater service that the Arabs

can do other than pouring oil on fire? I believe 'Arafat did not make a mistake in going to Tripoli. He arrived there to be with and among his forces. How could he have abandoned them? How could a leader abandon his forces while they are being struck at and go to another country? On the contrary, I respect and appreciate him because he did not leave his forces. This is an example of courage that can be given to every leader. Yes, this is a stand that elicits esteem.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: Mr President, what about Palestinian mistakes?

President Mubarak: The mistakes are many.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: Can you sum up these mistakes or give examples?

President Mubarak: For example, take the issue of 'Arafat's visit to Cairo. He had already told them of this visit in Tunis and they agreed on it. However, after the visit took place, some of them levelled criticism and made emotional comments. Why? Also, when he came to Cairo, does this mean he visited enemies? It is Egypt that has supported the cause since its inception. It is Egypt that turned the issue from one of refugees to one of people. Egypt has made and is making sacrifices for the Palestinian issue.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: It was reiterated in certain circles that had it not been for Egypt 'Arafat would not have emerged alive from Tripoli. Perhaps he came to Cairo to repay the favor. Would you confirm this?

President Mubarak: I cannot comment on this, but can say that we have done everything possible to ensure 'Arafat's safety. We contacted many parties and obtained guarantees.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: Did you obtain Israeli guarantees?

President Mubarak: Yes, we obtained Israeli guarantees.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: Allow me to return to 'Arafat. In your view his role has not finished. What would you say to the dissidents?

President Mubarak: I would tell them to regain their sense and think of the interest of the entire Palestinian people and not to seek a unilateral solution. Agree with all Palestinian parties on one course. Coordinate among yourselves and do not let any power fragment dismember you. Disintegration is not in your interest. Similarly, Arab fragmentation harms the Arabs and benefits the Israelis.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: Following the Palestinian exodus from Tripoli, would you support a Palestinian government in exile?

President Mubarak: We proposed this in the past and they answered that the time was not opportune. What is now important before a Palestinian government is to put the Palestinian home in order and regroup its forces. Perhaps the Arabs will have unified their position by then, thus allowing discussion of a Palestinian government on a pan-Arab level. Given this state of Arab dissension — one party supports a Palestinian government while another does not; one party proposes a dialogue with Washington but another rejects this; one party proposes rapprochement with Egypt but another says no. Some propose contacts with the Russians, but others refuse. There is no agreement on one specific issue. Given this state of affairs, how can we proceed on a plan for a solution? How can we move when we even differ on the concept of moving? This fragmentation harms the issue.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: What has Egypt done to put a stop to all of this, or rather what have you done in this regard?

President Mubarak: You cannot applaud with one hand. Egypt is sparing no efforts for the sake of the cause. No other Arab state is serving the cause like Egypt. We fear nothing. For example, take the Egyptian delegate's speech at the United Nations regarding the Palestinian cause. You can also reread our speeches to the ILO, the UNCTAD session in Belgrade, and the foreign jurists' conference in Cairo. This was before my departure to New York. We are contributing as much as we can, but you should not forget that you cannot applaud with one hand.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: Do I correctly interpret all this as indicating that you are somewhat sad or disappointed?

President Mubarak: Thus far, no. I hope that we, as Arabs, will not lose all of our cards. I also hope that we will not be a cause for liquidating the Palestinian issue, because we have been rejecting everything since the beginning of the issue. We are now threatened with losing everything. Its high time that we catch up with events. We used to refuse, but later would ask for what we had previously refused. This is an intolerable situation. I clearly say that we have 1 year ahead of us, and if this year passes without any result, the cause will become extremely complicated.

AL-WATAN AL'ARABI: Based on the above, are you, therefore, advising that the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue be expedited?

President Mubarak: Certainly.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: But on what basis. Is it on the basis of the Reagan plan, Fes plan, or a new compromise project by Egypt?

President Mubarak: If we go back to the argument about the Reagan and Fes plans, and the other plans, we would spend another 10 years of futile discussion, and the cause would be completely lost. It now behooves us to begin our moves on the basis of Reagan's initiative. Let us use this initiative's good points and later develop them. The Fes plan is excellent, but who will assist us in achieving it? [words indistinct]. I repeat: we should begin with Reagan's initiative until we develop it in a subsequent phase. What is important is that we should push the wheel and get rid of the stalemate. [Words indistinct] if this happens, we will lack a solution that could push the wheel. We will also find ourselves facing the fait accompli: The entire Gaza Strip and West Bank will become Israeli settlements and the Arabs will be waiting and listening to other solutions such as the search for the alternative.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: The Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue had been previously disrupted for one reason or another. Do you personally favor Jordan joining the negotiations to give momentum to the process?

President Mubarak: I cannot answer that question before meeting with and speaking to King Husayn.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: Will you meet soon with King Husayn?

President Mubarak: There is a possibility that we will meet at any time.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: What has prevented your meeting thus far in view of your meeting in New Delhi?

President Mubarak: There is absolutely nothing preventing a meeting. We constantly hold consultations. I am prepared to visit Jordan if necessary.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: Allow me to once again turn to the expected meeting between King Husayn and 'Arafat. Do you, according to your own information, expect a positive result?

President Mubarak: A result can be achieved with the assistance of all Arab states. Why should we rule out the achievement of progress in this respect with Arab coordination?

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: You speak of a final opportunity in 1984. However, do you believe that President Reagan will be able to devote all his time and attention to the Middle East problem now that U.S. election campaign fever has started?

President Mubarak: We must help him. What can he do alone? I reiterate, the Arabs must help Reagan.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: How can the Arabs help Reagan?

President Mubarak: We must agree among ourselves and in this way we will be assisting him.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: Agree on what, Mr President?

President Mubarak: Agree on what? Agree on our moves in respect of our cause. We are regrettably preoccupied with internal differences while the world looks at and observes us. We differ on the concept of our move. As I said, we are fragmented and searching for one self and live for one self. If the situation continues as such we will be lost one after the other. If we agree, the dialogue between His Majesty King Husayn and brother Yasir 'Arafat will yield a result. This agreement is a basic condition for convincing the various Palestinian groups. It is no secret that the Arab states can influence the Palestinian groups and urge them to rationally discuss their interests. This cannot be achieved without pan-Arab coordination.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: Let us return to your meeting with 'Arafat. It has aroused a great deal of comment, some positive, some negative. What is your opinion about the negative statements, such as the one made by Abu Iyad, for example, who said that 'Arafat's initiative had nothing to do with the organization nor does it represent its views?

President Mubarak: There are some who seek to impede Arab harmony or oppose the cause by their emotional statements. Some have brooded and found out that their statements were incorrect and thus retracted them [word indistinct] and some statements change. I say to those: Enough emotional statements, for they serve no [words indistinct]. Furthermore, I do not care about statements and do not reply to those who utter abusive words and criticize emotionally.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: There is another Palestinian opinion which calls for a return to underground operations and precisely violence and liquidations as a reaction to the failure to achieve any important steps through political action. What are your views on this?

President Mubarak: Violence breeds violence, this is an axiom.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: ...Breeds violence from Israel?

President Mubarak: From any quarter. The reply will certainly be extremely violent. Furthermore, the Palestinian name should not be connected with terrorism, because this will make the whole world cast them out, including even the Arabs themselves. Furthermore, this will not lead to any solution. I doubt that the question of liquidations is really Palestinian but suspect it is imported from another quarter. Violence will not serve the Palestinians, but other quarters. They must fully realize this. I wish to forward this question: Did the United States itself manage to settle the Vietnamese question through war?

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: But the Arabs are not solely responsible for the syndrome they are living in. Israeli obduracy will in the end breed violence.

President Mubarak: Then is it for this reason that the Arabs are disunited? Is the obduracy not caused by Arab weakness and division? When we were negotiating with Israel, the Arabs cursed us, not Israel. The result was that I took a stiffer stand. During the negotiations over autonomous rule, the curses poured again and the result was that [word indistinct] Israel and voices rose in the Knesset calling for halting the Camp David process. It cannot be that everyone does what he feels like. There is a simple principle: In unity there is strength.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: Now that 'Arafat and his forces have left Tripoli, there are some who say it would be possible to separate the Lebanese and Palestinian crises. Consequently this departure facilitates the solution of the Lebanese war. Is this your view,too?

President Mubarak: I do not believe this separation will occur, because the Middle East crisis is the cause of all problems. It is a disease which should be treated at the roots. This problem is the essence of the conflict and the region's problems. These problems will not end except with a solution of the Palestine question. However, this does not mean that we should halt all efforts to solve the Lebanese crisis. Not at all. What I wanted to say is that isolation cannot materialize, that is, the area conflicts

cannot [words indistinct] except after the solution of the Palestine question and after we worked to give a push to the wheel of peace for reaching a solution satisfactory to all sides. The war in Lebanon is the byproduct of the [words indistinct] crisis. But this does not mean that we should halt efforts to solve the Lebanese problem. Efforts must be simultaneously active on both fronts. For example, we say to the [word indistinct] prisoners: Withdraw from Lebanon and let the Arabs solve the question of the Syrian presence with Damascus. I had wished our Syrian brothers would leave Lebanon so that the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon would not become consecrated.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: In other words, in your view a solution of the Lebanese question is now easier than before following (?the departure of the Palestinian forces) from northern Lebanon.

President Mubarak: [Word indistinct] with the existence of many (?sides) the solution would not be easy unless (?there exist a good will) and consequently Arab coordination. Otherwise, asolution will remain remote.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: How do you see the prospects for the Lebanese National Reconciliation Dialogue in Geneva?

President Mubarak: I am neither optimistic nor pessemistic. Every side has an Arab state standing behind it against the other.Once more I say that inter-Arab differences will essentially leave their mark on the Geneva conference.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: What is your plan for solving the Lebanese crisis after all that has happened and in light of the recent developments, and more precisely, after 'Arafat's departure from northern Lebanon?

President Mubarak: My plan can be summarized in a few words: Arabs, meet together, agree, and coordinate, and then the Lebanese crisis and other crises will be solved.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: Can they agree in isolation from Egypt?

President Mubarak: Unfortunately they did reach agreement even after abandoning Egypt. I now say to them: I am ready to come to you and place my hands in your hands and discuss the gains and losses and settle the matter.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: In light of your private information, is there still the threat of a Lebanese partition?

President Mubarak: The threat of division is still there.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: You have spoken of a 1-year delay, 1984, before it is too late. Does this also apply to the Lebanese crisis. In other words, what are the dangers to which Lebanon would be exposed if the crisis were to continue throughout the new year?

President Mubarak: When I speak of a year's delay, this is my personal estimate. What applies to the Middle East crisis can also apply to Lebanon. If Lebanon fails to heal its wounds in the new year, this will mean the consecration of the occupation. When occupation lasts for a long time, and I say this in light of our experience, it creates untold difficulties and problems.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: Should the new year pass without any result either in regard to the Middle East or Lebanese crises, will that mean the area might witness the threat of the emergence of communal statelets as some have warned?

President Mubarak: We pray to God that this will not happen because it would be a disaster and the worst of catastrophes in the region.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: There are several Arab parties, including Egypt, which call on Damascus to withdraw its forces from Lebanon. It seems clear that Damascus is indifferent to these calls. Is this because Syria holds the main cards in Lebanon and perhaps in the Middle East and can act as it pleases?

President Mubarak: No, I can tell you that Syria alone does not hold the cards. The cards are in the hands of all Arabs. For instance, are we able? No, there must be convictions resulting from dialogue and understanding. Let us sit down at the negotiating table and speak frankly. Is the Syrian presence in Lebanon useful and does it serve Lebanese and Arab interests? I again repeat [words indistinct] that I call on all Arabs [words indistinct], to give up differences and coordinate. If this is achieved, it will be possible to reach tangible progress regarding both the Lebanese and Palestinian crises.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: What can Egypt give Lebanon apart from what it has given thus far?

President Mubarak: We are supporting Lebanon in all spheres. We are talking with the Americans and many other sides to motivate the process of withdrawal from Lebanon. I again repeat that Arab coordination is required. I believe that a solution is contingent upon coordination which is necessary to bring all the Lebanese to the negotiating table. This is the best solution without any foreign intervention and far from the regional interests in Lebanon.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: May I understand from your talk that the Arabs now hold 100 percent of the cards?

President Mubarak: Certainly.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: Where then is the United States?

President Mubarak: The United States is making an effort but the necessary Arab reaction does not exist.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: Mr President, are you satisfied with what your presidency has thus far achieved?

President Mubarak: I am not satisfied with what we have done, because my aim is to achieve more. We are proceeding along the democratic path and have achieved much in this regard. We are proceeding on the line of economic reform. We have laid down a 5-year plan for the first time in Egypt's history. We are implementing it because we discovered that we will never progress

without sound scientific planning. We will lag behind. Let me tell you that there is much talk of changes, but I do not agree. I do not like changes for the sake of changes and I do not like electric shocks either. I desire the stability of the people's interests.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: Can we say that 1984 will be the last year of emergency?

President Mubarak: They made a story out of the emergency law, although it is not that important.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: Why don't you abrogate it?

President Mubarak: What shall I do with terrorism? We are applying this law to confront terrorism. The emergency laws in England, France, the United States, and Germany for example are 100 times more harsh than what we are applying. Our emergency law is very slack [da'if jiddan] compared with these laws. If we think of using laws to combat terrorism they will say that they are extraordinary laws constituting a retreat from democracy. We want stability for this country for the sake of development and the Egyptian citizen. Stability is essential for pushing the wheel of investment. I challenge anyone who says that I applied the emergency law other than for combatting terrorism. Ask me if the emergency law restricts freedom of the press. I tell you: Since monarchism, the press has never enjoyed this degree of freedom. Had we applied the emergency law other than for combatting terrorism, to the press for example, there would have been no freedom for any press work, and this we do not want. In brief, we want to consolidate stability, the supremacy of law, and freedom of opinion. We all desire to comprehend these realities within the framework of the law.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: We have heard about Nasirism and Sadatism, but we have not yet heard about Marxism [presumably a MENA mistake, probably should be Mubarakism].

President Mubarak: I personally do not know what Nasirism and Sadatism are.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: For example, Sadatism is the policy of electric shocks.

President Mubarak: My school is that of calm, stability, development, and coordination with the Arab brothers within a cordial, civilized pan-Arab framework. We must avoid abuse to which the well-known countries resort. We must leave that behind.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: Do you believe that if the crisis reaches a deadlock and the U.S.-Soviet conflict intensifies, a third world war would become likely with its first spark coming from this region as some observers expect?

President Mubarak: I do not believe that the big powers would reach the stage of world confrontation. But there could be conflicts [words indistinct] as happened in Grenada and Afghanistan and other places.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: There are reports of military concentrations on the Egyptian-Libyan borders. Could you confirm these reports?

President Mubarak: From our side, no. But let the other side haveconcentrations if they so wish. What will they do. We will not fight Libya, nor any other Arab country. Since we are laying the foundation of peace with Israel, would it make sense to fight an Arab country?

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: You do not fight against any Arab country, but would you not fight on the side of any Arab country?

President Mubarak: What do you mean exactly?

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: What will Egypt's position be if, for example, Syria were exposed to Israeli aggression.

President Mubarak: In this case, in order that our position be right, Syria must stop helping Iran against Iraq. Let us not open this dossier.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: What about future Egyptian-Libyan relations?

President Mubarak: I want nothing from Libya other than good neighborly relations.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: Should there be interference in Sudan's affairs?

President Mubarak: That is another matter and they know its dimensions well.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: What question did you expect me to ask during our interview that I failed to ask you? This is before we move to internal matters.

President Mubarak: I was expecting you to ask me if we would abolish Camp David for the sake of restoring Egyptian-Arab solidarity.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: What is your answer?

President Mubarak: Without getting nervous, will the abolition of the Camp David process serve the general Arab interest. I do not want to discuss this matter in public. But what interests me is to point out that the abolition of Camp David will mean the immediate declaration of a state of war and the aboliton of the peace process. Now the question is are we prepared for war at a time when our people have attained a level of development which we want to develop and live in peace. Will a war solve the problems? I hope the Arab brothers will understand this and I believe they do.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: Many people express your dissatisfaction with some aspects of the opposition's behavior. Well, how about the majority's behavior, and do you have a program for the development of the ruling National Democratic Party?

President Mubarak: The Egyptian parties are a only few years old. The majority has its pros and cons. For instance, when the Al-Wafd was the majority, it had its good qualities and problems. I demand that the two sides — the opposition and majority — adhere to realism, instead of trying to outdo each other.

And they say: We want Pope Shinudah — The Coptic pope — out [of his exile]. And I tell them: Do you care about getting Pope Shinudah out more than I care? I care about this out of my concern for his release — and the pope understands this matter. Furthermore, we do not serve the interests of others outside Egypt, but there are those whose aim is to sow intrigue. Briefly stated, Pope Shinudah enjoys complete freedom where he is now, and receives visitors without the least objection. This is just one example of many other issues which we must not use to compete with each other.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: Does your statement signify your full gratification with the ruling party, or are there any shortcomings?

President Mubarak: There are shortcomings on both sides — the opposition and majority — and don't forget that the parties are only 5 years old. Furthermore, this experience is still at its infancy and any majority party — in an experience similar to ours — will also face numerous problems.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: Regarding the Egyptian opposition delegation that met with Yasir 'Arafat in Tripoli, did it go with your consent and what role did it play?

President Mubarak: Engineer Ibrahim Shukri, leader of the Socialist Labor Party, asked me [for permission] to meet with 'Arafat in Tripoli. He actually went there with my approval. I asked him to convey my greetings to 'Arafat, see if he wanted anything specific from me, and convey my support for him. I had previously sent two messages to 'Arafat. Contacts are continuing between 'Arafat and myself. I agreed that the trip be to Tripoli only and no other place; naturally, I do not prevent anybody from going anywhere but etiquette requires that an opposition leader obtain permission from the president of the Republic, foreign minister, or prime minister if he wants to travel to a specific country. This is also the case for public figures in the United States. Vance, for example, came here but informed the U.S. Administration of his plan to travel beforehand. The same applies to Carter, Kissinger, and Brzezinski. They ask permission of the U.S. Administration and do not discuss political affairs before knowing the trends of their country's policy. However, some of us regrettably understand freedom as meaning that they can go anywhere and do anything.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: However, the opposition says: We are with Mubarak but not with the government. What is your opinion?

President Mubarak: Is the government composed of non-Egyptians? If what is meant is specific persons, then I must say I am not in favor of changing ministers every 6 months. All I demand is productive ministers and stability enabling each minister to implement his plan.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI Is there any intention to allow the appearance of new parties in 1984?

President Mubarak: We have six parties: Al-Wafd, Al-Ummah, the Labor party, National Progressive Union Group, National Democratic Party, and Liberal Party. Aren't these enough to practice the experiment? Let us begin with reforming what already exists and setting solid party foundations. We can later amend the parties law and open the door to several more parties. It will be useful for us to gradually consolidate our steps along the road to democracy.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: Your Excellency, coordination, discarding differences, dialogue, and understanding are all words we have been reiterating since 1948. The frustration which the Arab citizen feels results perhaps from the failure of these calls. What has changed in this regard since the beginning of the interview that makes you reiterate the importance of coordination and concentration, although it is an old issue and we have almost despaired of the possibility of realizing it?

President Mubarak: What has changed is that the current stage is the most sensitive and serious one. The question is whether there is a cause or not. We have passed through many experiences but the present is the gravest. In other words, if the new year passes without the realization of tangible results, then the issue will be terribly complicated. This is why I insist on the importance of Arab coordination.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: Will you propose specific practical steps to achieve or speed up this coordination and do you view the Arab summit as the solution?

President Mubarak: I am the one who encouraged them [the Arab leaders] to convene the summit conference. I told them: Convene and coordinate the summit, even without Egypt, and I am at the same time prepared to help, if even from a distance if you do not want Egypt to attend.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: What is Egypt's stance on the forthcoming Arab summit?

President Mubarak: They are free to decide to or not to invite us. However, this does not prevent us from frankly voicing our opinion and saying: What has happened to our people is the result of this division.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: Are you prepared to open all the files and discuss all issues?

President Mubarak: I am prepared.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: Even discussion of the Camp David accords?

President Mubarak: I am prepared to discuss the Camp David accords and answer all questions on it. The question is not one of showmanship. The Camp David accords are the only documents to which Israel is committed. Indeed, it is now trying to abandon it. For example, it changed its concept of autonomy when it discovered that the Arabs were torn asunder, and said that

autonomy applies to the persons and not the land. I say:This is not true, and you [the Israelis] are changing the spirit of the Camp David accords.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: Do you believe that the Arab summit, if held, will result in anything under the present conditions?

President Mubarak: If good preparation is lacking, then the summit will not produce any resolutions. Coordination before the summit will crystallize many issues, particularly the basic ones. No Arab or non-Arab summit will succeed if it lacks good advance preparation.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: Will you attend the Islamic Summit Conference?

President Mubarak: If we are invited.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: It has been reiterated that King Hassan II will take the initiative and invite Egypt to that summit?

President Mubarak: I have heard such talk and we hear a lot of things every day.

AL-WATAN AL'ARABI: Since the beginning of this interview, you have been talking of Arab fragmentation, division, and Arab wars. Who, in your opinion, is responsible for this state of affairs?

President Mubarak: The responsibility rests with all the Arab countries.

AL-WATAN AL'ARABI: Does this include Egypt?

President Mubarak: Yes, it includes Egypt. I have said that I am quite prepared to visit any Arab country in order to specify allresponsibilities.

AL-WATAN AL'ARABI: What in your opinion is the step necessary to break loose of this whirlpool?

President Mubarak: I am prepared to save them from this whirlpool.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: Any specific ideas in this respect?

President Mubarak: Perhaps the situation requires a daring and crucial initiative.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: Can you define its features and landmarks?

President Mubarak: For the time being the ideal initiative would be for me to visit the Arab countries to hold heart-to-heart discussions. Perhaps this would contribute to achieving an agreement with regard to the move. May I add that as far as I am concerned, I am ready to board a plane in 1 hour and land in any Arab country if this would help achieve an agreement on the prerequisites of the move. I am ready to do this without any embarrassment.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: Perhaps you are waiting for an official invitation before visiting any Arab country?

President Mubarak: No, not at all. I need no invitations. I am ready to go without invitations or formalities if I feel this would not confuse the other side. It is no secret that Arab-Egyptian contacts do exist, are active, and channels are open. However, the formalities still exist.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: In your opinion, what are the Arabs waiting for to end the boycott which is in form only as long as channels are open and overt and covert contacts are taking place? Is it out of fear or caution on Egypt's part or certain Arab quarters?

President Mubarak: It is better that you ask others this question.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: Sir, most leaders prefer not to talk these days.

President Mubarak: You know well what the reason is. You know that Egypt fears nothing.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: Are you thinking of confronting some leaders with a fait accompli by boarding a plane and landing in some Arab country?

President Mubarak: I am ready to embark on this initiative, butdo not want to embarrass [illegible] or that country as this would further complicate the situat[illegible]

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: What is your wish to the Arabs on the first week of the new year?

President Mubarak: The new year will begin in a few days. What else do you have to wish the Arabs except: Mend your differences, be realistic, coordinate your stands, if you differ then agree about what it is you differ on, pursue a unified strategy, and do not allow the Arab world to be fragmented by petty problems.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: It is out of generalities ['umumiyyat] that the Arabs should mend their differences. But what is your wish to them on this occasion?

President Mubarak: If I were to speak to King Fahd, I would tell him that he is an old friend and I have known him since he was the crown prince. We met on so many occasions and I admire his ideas. I wish that his efforts for achieving an Arab accord would be crowned with success, particularly since he is one of the able rulers. Saudi Arabia is in fact making efforts in the service of the Arab issues. As I said in the beginning of the interview:- You cannot applaud with one hand.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: What do you wish for President Saddam Husayn?

President Mubarak: My relations with President Saddam Husayn date back to before his assumption of the primary responsibility in his country. He is a gallant president and our

relations are continuous. I wish that the [Gulf] war would stop. Responsibility for its continuation falls on the Iranian side.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: Do you contemplate visiting Baghdad shortly? There have been reports to this effect.

President Mubarak: A visit is likely. I am waiting for the appropriate circumstances.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: Has an official invitation been addressed to you?

President Mubarak: There is no need for official invitations between President Saddam and myself.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: Has a date for the visit been fixed?

President Mubarak: No. It might be fixed spontaneously and suddenly.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: What do you wish King Husayn on this occasion?

President Mubarak: We are in constant touch with King Husayn. I hope that the Jordanian-Palestinian coordination will achieve a result early in the new year on the level of giving a push to the peace process.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: Do you plan to visit Jordan?

President Mubarak: I might meet King Husayn anywhere. It is known that we met in New Delhi. Meeting is not a problem. I might visit him in Jordan. We do not need formalities. When the need arises, I will not hesitate.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: What do you wish President Al-Asad?

President Mubarak: I wish him recovery.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: Is he sick according to your special information?

President Mubarak: I know he is sick and wish him recovery and constant good health so that he may resume his work, and we may achieve coordination.

Al-WATAN AL-'ARABI: Is there any lobbying now with Damascus.

President Mubarak: After a short silence, the president answers: No comment.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: Is this all that President Mubarak wishes for President Al-Asad?

President Mubarak: I also wish that he would withdraw his forces so as to secure an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: Egypt strongly criticized the U.S. strategic agreement with Israel. The intensity of the criticism eased later and it was said that U.S. envoy Rumsfeld conveyed assurances from President Reagan to you. Have these assurances convinced you?

President Mubarak: I cannot say that we are satisfied. We spoke with the Americans about the strategic agreement with Israel and told them: This is a very strange cooperation at this particular time when the issue is passing through a very critical stage. I said: What is the purpose of concluding this agreement at this time? Could it be the U.S. elections, for example? The fact is that we do not have precise and detailed information on this cooperation which, it has been said, was agreed upon in 1979.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: However, have you been convinced to a certain extent by the U.S. justifications or assurances?

President Mubarak: To a certain extent, and we are following up the situation.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: Do you believe that the explosions in Kuwait can occur in other states?

President Mubarak: This is possible and other states must take precautions.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: How?

President Mubarak: By strengthening security measures; however, I reiterate: Arabs wake up. I wish we would arrive at a phase when this call would not have to be repeated in order that we may avert all that leads to such actions.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: Do you believe that the explosions in Kuwait were part of a specific planned plot against Gulf security as a whole?

President Mubarak: I do not believe there is an obvious plot in the true sense of the word. This is my conviction.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: Have you or are you offering security assistance to the Gulf states or to some of them along with the current measures to resist whatever may harm the Gulf?

President Mubarak: We never hesitate. We offer expertise and advice to our brothers at their request.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: Do you expect an end to the Iraqi-Iranian war soon?

President Mubarak: In fact, I do not see an end to it soon. We have made great efforts on our part. The mediation committee reached no result. The continuation of the war is due to the Iranians' hardline position, particularly now that Iraq has withdrawn to its international border. Is it in the public interest for their resources to be spent on armament, fighting, and bloodshed at the expense of the people's interests? I hope that the voice of logic and reason will prevail. Iraq must inevitably resist. We, the Arab states, and other countries must help Iraq defend itself, not in waging an offensive but in defending itself and its sovereignty; this is a legitimate matter.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: What is the extent of Egyptian aid?

President Mubarak: We have no forces [in Iraq]. We help by securing certain defensive, not offensive equipment.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: Let us talk about Israel. Israel has objected to 'Arafat's visit and it was reported that Egypt has rejected the Israeli objection.

President Mubarak: Israel cannot prevent us from receiving whomever we want. Israel is not our trustee as we are not its trustee. Israel is an independent sovereign state just as we are. We do not accept any interference in our domestic affairs. If Israel claimed that our reception of 'Arafat is a breach of Camp David, it is free to say whatever it likes. The United States has declared the opposite. It appears that Israel interprets any Egyptian initiative a breach of Camp David. When we recalled the Egyptian ambassador Israel said this was a breach of the principles of Camp David. It is known that the appointment or recall of an ambassador is within the framework of exercising sovereignty and no one is entitled to interfere in this whether it be Israel or others.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI: Is there an idea or plan to meet with Shamir in order to clarify these points?

President Mubarak: To clarify what? All points are clear. I will meet with Shamir when Israel withdraws from Lebanon and the Palestine question is reactivated.

Mubarak Interview With Kuwaiti Editors Reported

On Camp David Accords

LD291408 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0807 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Kuwait, 29 Dec (KUNA) — Egyptian President Husni Mubarak urges the Arab countries to reunite and the Palestinians to mend the rift among them in order to face developments in the coming year.

In an interview with chief editors of Kuwaiti papers last Monday, and published here today, he added: Egypt will do its utmost to resolve the Palestinian issue. It is not our objective to change the region into an arena for foreign forces; where some forces control the region and others do not. Therefore, we are working toward balanced relations with the entire world without taking into consideration whether these countries have interests here or there.

The Egyptian President said: We are not party to a game of interests. What we are working for is the independence of the Egyptian decision without any outside influence. In light of this general concept of Egyptian policy, I believe that our stand on the Palestine issue is correct to a large extent.

He pointed out that the Camp David accord consists of two sections: One on the Egyptian-Israeli problem and the other on resolving the Palestine issue in all its aspects. He said we have been able to regain our land and Sinai with the first section. If we had made conventional statements about a solution, Sinai would not have been regained. Israel tried to employ all kinds of possible and impossible pressures to prevent what we arrived at in the agreement, especially because it was planning to build more settlements in the Sinai so that it would finally become part of Israeli territory.

The Egyptian president added: If we had pursued the second part of the Camp David accords, which is specific to the Palstine issue, to end Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and if we Arabs had come to an agreement on our differences and left the gate open for contacts, would not our position have been more favorable than it is now? President Mubarak said Israel now wants the Camp David accord rescinded.

With regard to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Egypt, he said: We look at the general interest in the Arab region and the pan-Arab interest of the Arab world. Yasir 'Arafat is an Arab who used the Suez Canal to cross Egyptian territory. He pointed out that he will meet with any Arab leader whose ship passes through the canal. He added. We have not imposed anything on 'Arafat, nor told him to recognize this or rescind that, and we have not forced him to do this and leave that. I do not see any specific problem in this. I realize that if we were politically different, we would not have enmity and boycott. He pointed out that to consider 'Arafat's visit (?as) a gain for Egypt and a loss for 'Arafat is incorrect logic, particularly because we view the matter within our pan-Arab perception. We want to reach a solution to the problem which threatens the Arab world, as took place in Lebanon. He told me what they were subjected to in Lebanon and Tripoli.

Mubarak added: I expressed my views regarding the gravity of the situation and its deterioration. The discussion did not touch on Camp David, and I did not want to raise a topic that would cause embarrassment. The Egyptian president said in reply to a question about the explosions in Kuwait: If we are not alert to crisis spots and the causes of friction in them, these incidents will take place anywhere and not only in a peninsula or the Gulf. What happened in Kuwait must be understood by all Arabs, and requires more Arab awareness, because we are destroying ourselves by what we are doing and by allowing the current situation to continue to deteriorate.

More on Peace Process

LD291422 Kuwait KUNA in English 1008 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 29 (KUNA) — Egyptian President Husni Mubarak Thursday justified the Egyptian-Israeli Camp David accords and stressed that his recent controversial meeting with Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir 'Arafat in no way abrogated that agreement.

In a wide-ranging interview with Kuwaiti newspaper editors, Mubarak upheld the 1978 accords as a necessary step in the Egyptian search for Middle East peace and its repossesion of lands occupied by Israel. The accords, which left Egypt isolated from the Arab world, succeeded in restoring the Gaza Strip to Egypt, put an end to Israeli settlements in the area and in effect

allowed Egypt to turn its attention to wider issues of general peace in the Middle East, he pointed out.

The second part of the accords deals with the Palestinian issue and the freeing of the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. In other words, the agreement works for the benefit of the Palestinian cause by envisaging a Middle East peace based on a plan which promises a homeland for the Palestinian people, the Egyptian leader explained. However, while "we want to restore our lands, whether by Camp David or any other agreement, Israel wants to cancel the Camp David accords, and is hoping that we will cancel them so it will be free from its obligation," he said in calling for Arab support of the agreement.

Egyptian moves, including signing the agreement with Israel, are always within the framework of doing what is best for the Arab nation, he said, adding that its efforts would be enhanced by Arab solidarity and unity. "This is what other Arab countries do not realize, that if we are united and present a solid bloc, then no obstacle can stand in our way. We must join hands and work together," he stressed.

On the various peace plans put forward for the Middle East, Mubarak said "I believe that we should accept any initiative which gives us a solid beginning before it is to late." He said if the Arabs continue to be preoccupied with side issues, such as inter-Arab differences, Israel will use the opportunity to firmly establish settlements on the disputed lands, presenting a fait accompli, from which it will be difficult to extricate it (Israel).

On his talks with 'Arafat, Mubarak said he urged the PLO leader to seek a solution to the current inter-Palestinian crisis, which is working against the cause and threatens to harm the interests of the Palestinians and Arabs in general.

However, despite Mubarak's strong backing of 'Arafat and the Palestinian cause, he ruled out the possibility of a Palestinian government in exile being based in Cairo saying using Egypt as a base would "be of no benefit." Also of "no benefit" is a military solution for the situation, he added.

The Egyptian leader refused to cancel the Camp David accords, a move which would put Egypt in a stae of war with Israel, and taking into account Egypt's lack of funds and armaments, would be tragic. Commonsense is what is needed to end the present situation in the Arab world, which, he said "will destroy all of us, including Egypt."

"As long as the Arab world is split, Israel will have the advantage," he reiterated, pointing out that the Israeli-U.S. strategic accord, an agreement aimed against all Arabs, was signed in the face of Arab disunity.

Meanwhile, in line with Egypt's view that "the Arab world is in need of Egypt's leadership, in freedom of opinion and viewpoints," Mubarak said his country would continue to try and work toward a general Middle East peace and has left further contacts with 'Arafat open.

U.S. Seeks PLO Dialogue

NC291458 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] President Husni Mubarak renewed his warning against delaying a solution of the Palestine question. He said the current situation cannot sustain postponement or delay and that dialogue must begin on the constructive points contained in U.S. President Reagan's initiative. He warned against the danger of a continuation of the present situation in the occupied Arab territory.

In his interview with the chief editors of Kuwaiti newspapers, President Mubarak said he is seeking with the United States to enter into a direct dialogue with Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat.

He said that during their recent meeting in Cairo he agreed with 'Arafat on continuing the consultations due to the importance of exchanging views among the Arabs to arrive at a solution of the question. President Mubarak called on the Palestinians to close their ranks. He also called on all Arabs to adopt objectivity when discussing higher Arab interests.

In his interview to Kuwaiti papers, President Mubarak confirmed that Egypt contributed to securing the departure of Yasir 'Arafat and his fighters from Tripoli. He said Egyptian gunboats and units of the Egyptian Fleet escorted the ships carrying 'Arafat and his colleagues to Jidda port.

President Mubarak expressed the belief that Iran will not block the Hormuz Strait in face of world interests. He stressed that Iran will be among the first to suffer from this.

Regarding Egyptian-Soviet relations, President Mubarak said: Egypt has trade relations with the Soviet Union.

In his interview, Mubarak spoke on the internal situation in Egypt, affirming that the economic situation is good and the building process is proceeding along a sound course. He said freedom is guaranteed to the opposition and there are no restrictions against the parties' newspapers.

Al-Baz To Take Mubarak Message to Husayn

NC291616 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 29 Dec (MENA) — Dr Usamah al-Baz, Presidential Office director for political affairs, is expected in Amman during the next 24 hours with a message from President Mubarak for King Husayn. The message deals with the recent meeting between President Mubarak and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat as well as the future Egyptian visualization of conditions in the area and the peace process.

Meanwhile, it has been learned that the message is one of several messages President Mubarak will be sending to other Arab and world states, including one which Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, will take next week to French President Mitterrand.

Mubarak Receives Thank-you Cable From Kuwaiti Amir

NC291855 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has received a thank-you cable from Kuwaiti Amir Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah thanking him for Egypt's stance regarding the recent regrettable incidents in Kuwait and Egypt's condemnation of these incidents.

'Ali Invited To Visit Iraq; Date To Be Set

NC291521 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today met with Samir an-Najm, chief of the Iraqi Interests Section in Cairo. After the meeting, An-Najm said that they reviewed the developments in the Middle East and Arab area as well as the contacts recently made by both Egypt and Iraq. He added that this is within the framework of the constant consultations between the two countries.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has invited him to visit Iraq, and that a date will be set later.

Mubarak Cables Good Wishes to Ceausescu

NC291439 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1253 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 29 Dec (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has sent the following congratulatory cable to His Excellency President Nicolae Ceausescu, president of the Socialist Republic of Romania on the occasion of Republic Day:

I am very pleased to convey to Your Excellency sincerest heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of your Republic Day. On this happy occasion I would like to praise your positive and constructive role in promoting peace efforts in the Middle East for the welfare of the peoples of this important area in the world. I am also pleased to express to Your Excellency our pride in the close relations that exist between our two friendly countries. We are eager to promote and develop these relations to our mutual advantage and to support international peace and security.

With my sincerest greetings and good wishes for your health and happiness, I wish the friendly Romanian people further progress and prosperity.

CSSR Deputy Foreign Minister To Visit Cairo

NC291442 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo 29 Dec (MENA) — Stanislav Svoboda, Czechoslovak deputy foreign minister, will arrive in Cairo on 7 January on a visit lasting until 11 January.

The Czechoslovak guest will have talks with Ambassador 'Abd al-Halim Badawi, the Egyptian assistant foreign minister, and several Egyptian officials dealing with bilateral relations and means for promoting and developing them in various fields, particularly in trade and economy. Views will also be exchanged on various developments in the Middle East and the current efforts for establishing peace in the area.

Spokesman Announces Downing of 2 Iranian Planes

JN301150 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1137 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Dec (INA) — An Iraqi military spokesman has announced that two Iranian F-5 fighter planes were shot down in a dogfight southeast of Ahvaz region today. The spokesman added that the Iranian planes were heading toward the Iraqi border in the area east of Basra. They were attacked by the Iraqi fighter planes which were able to shoot them down at 1100 today. The spokesman said that all of the Iraqi planes returned safely to base.

Armed Forces General Command Communique No 1,325

JN291727 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Communique No 1,325 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 29 December 1983]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

For the sake of safeguarding the sovereignty of great Iraq and the dignity of its valiant sons, our brave Armed Forces are continuing their activities in the operational sectors against the clique of evil and expansion ruling in Iran. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Our forward units opened fire on an enemy concentration opposite our positions in the northern sector of the battlefield, killing two soldiers and destroying one machine gun emplacement. Our units found a number of serviceable weapons and quantities of hardware elsewhere in the same sector.

2. One of our units fired at an enemy concentration east of Basra, killing one and destroying one excavator and two observation posts.

3. One vehicle and one infantry position were destroyed in the Maysan sector.

4. One medium machine gun emplacement was destroyed and its men killed in the central sector of the battlefield.

5. The criminal Iranian regime today shelled Mandali and its environs with artillery, causing damage to some civilian establishments.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 29 December 1983

Papers Warn Iran on Effects of Continued War

JN301026 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Dec (INA) — Iraqi papers today warned that Iraq's retaliation against any new Iranian aggression will be fiercer and more severe than ever before. The papers stressed that Iraq would employ new kinds of weapons to strike at the centers of aggression and the sources which finance it in order to force the Iranian rulers to relinquish their aggressions, ambitions, and evil designs.

In its editorial, the newspaper *ATH-THAWRAH* said that in confronting the Iranian aggression, Iraq would employ weapons and resources that would ensure the destruction of the Iranian rulers' dreams of aggression and expansion which are at the expense of Iraq and the Arab nation. *ATH-THAWRAH* said: Let the Iranian rulers understand that the war game in which they are indulging will end very soon.

AL-JUMHURIYAH said: Iran's refusal to attend the fourth Islamic summit conference places it among the condemned and isolated regimes in the world. In an editorial, the paper added that Iran's refusal to attend this conference stems from its awareness that international conferences call for peace rather than war, and encourage cooperation and peaceful coexistence rather than aggression. These principles, the paper said, are unacceptable to a regime like the Iranian regime because they do not promote the Iranian rulers' ambitions of exporting the reactionary model of their government. When the Iranian regime declines to attend conferences that call for peace, the paper said, it enhances its isolation and international hatred against it.

Saddam Husayn Meets PRC Congress Delegation

JN291204 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Dec (INA) President Saddam Husayn received here today the PRC People's Congress delegation led by Wang Renzhong, vice-chairman of the standing committee of the congress. Both sides stressed the developing friendly relations between Iraq and the PRC aimed at promoting cooperation on the basis of mutual benefit in support of the independence and freedom of peoples' toward establishing world peace. The meeting was attended by National Assembly Speaker Na'im Haddad, the president's secretary, and the director of the press and information department at the president's office.

Ramadan Receives PRC Official

JN291301 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1208 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Dec (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, received here today Wang Renzhong, vice-chairman of the PRC People's Congress standing committee. They reviewed bilateral relations emphasizing the need to expand and promote them in all fields so as to serve both countries' joint interests. Wang Renzhong is currently on a 1-week visit to Iraq at the invitation of the Iraqi National Assembly.

Ramadan Receives Message From Romanian Premier

JN291400 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1206 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Dec (INA) — First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan received here today Romanian Ambassador in Baghdad Mihail Diamandopol, who handed him a written message from Romanian Premier Constantin Dascalescu. The message deals with bilateral relations and their promotion.

Ramadan told the Romanian ambassador of his satisfaction with the developing nature of relations between Iraq and Romania.

Shanshal Appointed Minister for Military Affairs

JN291733 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1715 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Dec (INA) — A republican decree was issued here tonight appointing Staff General 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal, Iraqi chief of staff, a minister of state for military affairs.

According to this republican decree, which was broadcast over Baghdad television, Staff Gen 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal will retain his military rank throughout the war.

Pro-Shari'atmadari Clergy Arrested in Iran

GF291217 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 Nov 83

[Text] Reports from Tehran say that the Khomeyni authorities have arrested a number of Iranian clergymen opposed to Khomeyni and supporters of Ayatollah Shari'atmadari. The reports say that the arrested include Hojjat ol-Eslam Mullah Mohammad Sa'id Hamzeh Qasimi, Haj Ibrahim Hasanabad, Hojjat ol-Eslam Reza Abkari, and 16 students of Hojjat ol-Eslam Reza Abkari. The arrests come in the wake of increased opposition by Iranian clergymen to the Khomeyni regime's inhuman actions against the Iranian peoples and its persistence in imposing its war of aggression on Iraq.

Embassy Employee in Spain Killed by Gunfire

JN291830 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry has stated that at about 1400 today, after the Jordanian Embassy employees in Madrid had left their offices, two of the administrative employees were the target of a treacherous attack that resulted in themartyrdom of employee Walid Jamal Balqaz and the injury of another employee, Ibrahim Subhi Humayd, who was admitted to the hospital for medical treatment.

The Spanish security sources said that an unidentified gunman fired at the embassy employees and that the Spanish authorities are continuing their investigation to uncover the perpetrators of this criminal act. Immediately after learning of this criminal act, the Foreign Ministry held urgent contacts with the Spanish Government in this regard. The Spanish Government emphasized that it will adopt all the necessary measures to discover the perpetrators of this criminal attack. The source added that the Jordanian Government affirms that it will not allow these crimes, which are committed against its innocent defenseless employees while performing their duties, to pass unpunished. It stresses that the perpetrators will be duly punished.

Group Claims Credit

OW300352 Hong Kong AFP in English 0333 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Paris, Dec 30 (AFP) — The assassination of a Jordanian Embassy official in Madrid on Thursday was claimed by the "Arab Revolutionary Brigade", in an anonymous telephone call to Agence France-Presse here Thursday night.

The caller, who said he was ringing from Qatar, claimed a group from the brigades attacked an embassy car and "liquidated the mercenary Wald Jamal Balkiz [words indistinct] wounding another." Police said gunmen had fired 15 shots into the car before escaping.

The attack took place, according to the caller, because the Hashemite regime in Jordan "is still determined to implicate the Jordanian Armed Forces in the projects of "rapid intervention forces, to take part in negotiations with the Zionist enemy, to support the rotten 'Arafat clique, and to incarcerate nationalist fighters."

The brigades claimed responsibility for an "explosion" aboard a Gulf Air passenger plane which crashed killing 111 people last September 23 near Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates.

They also claimed the assassination of Israeli diplomat Jacob Barsimantov here in April 1982, but it was claimed by the Lebanese armed revolutionary factions as well.

AR-RA'Y Reaction

JN300808 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 30 Dec 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Stronger Than Terrorism," *AR-RA'Y says: The cowards have returned to attack the* innocent employees at our embassies abroad. They committed the fourth crime in Madrid yesterday after the crimes their stained hands perpetrated in New Delhi, Rome, and Athens more than 2 months ago.

What happened exposes the bankruptcy of the regime or regimes that prompted the aggressors and provided them with money and arms to perpetrate the treacherous crime. What happened also exposes the downfall of the instigator regime or regimes to the lowest level, and their conversion to terrorist gangs that practice organized crime.

AR-RA'Y continues: Needless to say, those who practice terrorism in such a way cannot be Arabs in their feelings, mind, thought, and conscience, even if they are Arabs by birth and name, because they are the archenemy of the nation and most dangerous to its reputation and position in the world.

The terrorists are mistaken if they think that they can impose hegemony over our country's march and policy by crime, because Jordan — the homeland, the state, and the bastion — is stronger than terrorism. These terrorists are also mistaken if they think for one moment that the crime will pass unpunished.

Jordan has always asserted that the pan-Arab line to which it adheres will never be changed, and that its support for the Palestine cause and its legitimate leadership will not weaken. Thus, the vicious instigators delude themselves if they believe that the bullets aimed at our citizens working in our embassies can divert Jordan from its pan-Arab commitments, its cohesion with the cause, and its dealings with the [illegible]ate Palestinian leadership. We must remind all that this [illegible]ry has always been the bastion on which the evil schemes and practices were destroyed, and the ideal and example of national cohesion which has made our community the shield that protects us from the terrorists' sway and the conspirators' grudge.

AR-RA'Y concludes: It is doubtless that Jordan will confront terrorism with all its abilities. All honest Arabs must also confront and strike at this terrorism, because terrorism will never be a method of communication and dealing. The vampires of organized crime will be unveiled, and the daylight will expose them.

Education Minister, U.S. Envoy Meet on UNESCO

JN301017 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 30 Dec 83 p 3

[Text] Amman — *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* — Dr Sa'id at-Tall, minister of education and chairman of the UNESCO General Conference's 22nd session, received at his office yesterday the U.S. Ambassador in Ammanwho conveyed the U.S. Government's appreciation for the vital and effective role the minister played in his capacity as the chairman of the conference; a role

which had a major effect on making the conference a success and in achieving its objectives.

The ambassador also reviewed the latest U.S. stand on UNESCO which calls for the withdrawal of the United States from this organization in light of some considerations that the United States believes are contrary to its stands on a number of issues that are of concern to UNESCO.

The ambassador noted that the current U.S. position on UNESCO is subject to prolonged and accurate discussions. The ambassador also noted that the U.S. position is subject to review in light of possible changes in the organization's stands toward a number of issues which the U.S. Government believes are not compatible with its general policy, especially in relation to some administrative, financial, and political measures.

Dr at-Tall asserted that differences in viewpoints among countries participating in international or non-international institutions are a fact, and that they must be taken into consideration. the minister added that dealing with such stands usually takes place through understanding and dialogue and on bases which are accepted at the international level. The minister said that the principle of withdrawal, as a response to contradictions in viewpoints, is not harmonious with the UNESCO charter whose principles stress understanding, cooperation, respect of basic liberties, and the promotion of communciation among the world's peoples.

The minister of education noted that United States' withdrawal from UNESCO may not be the best method to face the issues regarding the different positions of the United States and UNESCO. He noted that this U.S. stand will not contribute to strengthening friendship ties between the American people and the people of the world, and that this stand will not help to achieve the principles of UNESCO, which has been playing a vital role in strengthening communication and understanding among nations, and which has been working to maintain security, peace, justice, human rights, and the basic liberties of peoples without discrimination.

Dr at-Tall expressed the hope that the United States will reconsider its position on its withdrawal from the organization. He also expressed the hope that the United States would attempt to change the present trends within the organization in a manner commensurate with its own trends, convictions, and principles by working through the UNESCO institutions rather than by withdrawing from it.

AR-RA'Y Views Withdrawal

JN291123 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 29 Dec 83 p 83

["Every Day" column by Tariq Masarwah: "Well Done"]

[Text] U.S. President Ronald Reagan may declare his country's withdrawal from UNESCO this week. This will be a good move, because the U.S. Government's attitude toward this organization is similar to its attitude toward the United Nations and other international bodies — namely, that they must be under U.S. domination or else they should not exist at all. This week's anti-UNESCO campaign by the U.S. Government has been echoed by the Zionized U.S. media, which claim that this organization has become an open arena which the Third World states, instigated by the socialist states and the USSR, are using to attack Israel, the United States, and the free world. They say that UNESCO has become a forum for the world's political issues instead of a cultural, scientific organization working for the exchange of expertise among world states.

It is natural for this organization to be an arena for the Third World states, which exonstitute 70 percent of the UN member states. Their alliance forms a majority that prevents the United States from dominating the United Nations. Why does the greatest democratic state resent democratic principles when it is in the minority? When the United States raises its hand to vote, only Israel, South Africa, and the Pinochet representative join it.

As for UNESCO being a political forum in a cultural, scientific organization, we say that when Jordan and other Third World states raise the issue of education and the problems facing universities under Israeli occupation, they do not regard this as politics but as one of UNESCO's primary, urgent tasks. Israel refuses to cooperate with the UNESCO committees to investigate this problem. Therefore, the U.S. sponsorship of the Zionist terrorism makes both the United states and Israel culprits. The European states find it embarrassing to stand by Washington and Tel Aviv all the time. Naturally, the socialist bloc countries stand by the Third World states.

Washington wants UNESCO to confine its work to promoting programs for the mute, deaf, and blind and to use American expertise and funds, which are mostly consumed by the U.S. experts because of their colossal salaries. Washington does not want UNESCO to deal with urgent world issues such as the freedom of education in territories under racist occupation in Israel and South Africa. It does not want UNESCO to tackle the issue of free exchanges of information between the Third World states on the one hand and the big powers on the other. For Washington, these are political issues and should not be discussed by UNESCO.

The United States would do the world a lot of good if it withdraws from UNESCO, the ILO, and the United Nations. Mussolini was fed up with the League of Nations because it did not bless his rape of Ethiopia. The United States would do well to establish its own organization — an organization whose members would be Israel, South Africa, the Pinochet regime, and the Fernando regime. It can also give seats to Marshal Cao Ky, General Van Thieu, Ali Reza Pahlavi, and the fugitive generals from Central America. Then the United States will be able to dominate such an organization.

Trade Union Statement on 'Arafat Visit Denied

JN290823 AMMAN SAWT ASH-SHA'B IN ARABIC 29 DEC 83 P 1

[Text] Amman — *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* — Khalil Khurma, secretary general of the Jordanian Trade Unions Federation, has denied reports disseminated by the Syrian media that the federation has issued a statement denouncing 'Arafat's visit to Cairo.

In an exclusive statement to *SAWT ASH-SHA'B*, Khurma said that these reports are baseless, adding that the federation is reluctant to issue any statement on this issue before the Palestinian institutions take a position on the visit. Khurma said that the federation supports free, independent Palestinian decision-making. It also supports decisions made by the legitimate Palestinian institutions, particularly the Palestinian people's stand inside the occupied territories.

Moroccan Minister Delivers Message, Departs

JN291234 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Amman — His Highness Crown Prince Hasan the regent today received Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdelouahid Belkeziz who handed his highness a letter for His Majesty King Husayn which includes an invitation for the king to participate in the fourth Islamic summit conference to be held in Casablanca on 16 January. The meeting was attended by Court Minister 'Amir Khammash, Acting Foreign Minister Hasan Ibrahim, and the Moroccan ambassador in Amman.

In a departure statement in Amman today, Belkeziz said that his visit i. within the framework of exchanging views on current issues, adding that he had discussed with Prince Hasan the regent a number of issues of joint interest. He was seen off by the acting foreign minister, the acting Foreign Ministry secretary general, a number of senior Foreign Ministry officials, and the Moroccan ambassador in Amman.

Envoy Reaffirms U.S. Commitment To Al-Jumayyil

NC291108 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil has followed up the current developments in the country, particularly the security situation and the stances related to the Multinational Force.

President Al-Jumayyil received from Reginald Bartholomew, U.S. ambassador in Beirut, confirmation that the U.S. Marines will remain in Beirut. The U.S. ambassador also handed Al-Jumayyil a copy of President Reagan's latest speech, part of which concerns Lebanon. Furthermore, the ambassador briefed the president on the official Italian stand — of which the U.S. Administration had been notified — regarding the future participation of the Italian contingent in the Multinational Force. The U.S. ambassador assured Al-Jumayyil that the Italian contingent will remain in Beirut albeit reduced in size. The contingent will remain in Lebanon and be at the same strength as when it first came to Lebanon and prior to its enlargement.

Salim, Soviet Envoy Review Political Situation

Soldatov on Soviet Role

NC291242 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] At midday Foreign Minister Salim received Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Soldatov and (Yuri Purtikov), first counselor at the Soviet Embassy. They reviewed the political developments in Lebanon.

Following the meeting Soldatov underscored the Soviet Union's stand which aims at restoring peace in Lebanon saying: We are working in this direction. Commenting on the withdrawal of the Multinational Force or its transformation into a UN force, he said: We were not approached in this respect, and hence, did not discuss this matter. Soldatov added: We have repeatedly presented our stand in this respect; namely, that the aggression forces should withdraw first.

Asked whether he expects calm in Lebanon at the beginning of the new year, he said: Everything depends on the Lebanese; if they want peace, peace will come. On the role which the Soviet Union can play to secure the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon, Soldatov said: We are working to achieve this goal within the framework of the United Nations. However, this is an issue that depends on the Lebanese.

Calls For Israeli, MNF Withdrawal

NC291435 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Following his meeting with Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim today, Soviet Ambassador to Lebanon Aleksandr Soldatov said that Israel must withdraw from Lebanon without any prior conditions. Soldatov added that the Multinational Force can withdraw along with Israel because they are not doing anything.

Salim Addresses Ministry Employees on Policy

NC291755 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Lebanon's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity are a Lebanese decision and not an international one.Lebanon's foreign policy concerns Lebanon, the Arab east, the Middle East and the international struggle in this area — it is a policy based on liberating every inch of Lebanon, unifying it, and guaranteeing its sovereignty, and not in a vascillating manner as was the case in the past, but on firm bases.

This is how Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim defined Lebanon's foreign policy during a celebration today at the Foreign Ministry in honor of ministry employees on the occasion of the new year. He said Lebanon's foreign policy is a national policy unaffiliated with any Arab or non-Arab state. The foreign minister affirmed that efforts are continuing to enable Lebanon to ride out its ordeal. He called for rising above sectarianism, factionalism, and individualism. He blamed the Lebanese intellectuals who never thought of a unified Lebanon — Lebanon the homeland and state.

Envoys, Junblatt Meet in 'Positive' Atmosphere

JN291748 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Telephone dispatch from Fu'ad Nu'aym, Radio Monte Carlo correspondent in Amman on 29 December —recorded]

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil's two envoys to Amman,Johnnie 'Abduh, Lebanese ambassador to Switzerland, and Colonel Simon Qassis, head of Lebanese military intelligence, are expected to leave Amman this evening after intensive talks with Walid Junblatt on the security situation in Lebanon and the means to implement the cease-fire. Sources close to the official Lebanese delegation told us the talks were held in a positive atmosphere and that the discussion of some suspended issues will continue in subsequent meetings. Junblatt is now holding a final meeting with the Lebanese officials before their departure for Beirut.

Security Committee Meets in 'Positive' Atmosphere

NC291817 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] The Security Arrangements Committee met today with all its members attending: Staff Colonel Jean Nasif, representing the Lebanese Army; Dr Jean Ghanim, representing the Lebanese Front; Dr Ayyub Humayyid, representing the Amal movement; and Wahbi abu Fa'ur, representing the National Salvation Front.

Committee sources said the conferees have discussed several important topics, foremost being the question of the kidnapped, the integrated security plan, and the recent events in the southern suburb. The sources said the meeting was held in a positive atmosphere. The conferees expressed the hope that the outstanding problems will be solved soon.

Arranges Cease-Fire

NC301336 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1301 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] At 1415 today, Qurs al-Mudawwar came under mortar shelling. At 1425, a shell landed in ad-Dikwanah, and shells fell on Suq al-Gharb and Qurs al-Mudawwar. The Security Arrangements Committee immediately tackled the situation. It was agreed that a new cease-fire would begin at 1430 today.

Mosques To Stage General Sit-In 30 Dec

NC291746 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Calls were made today for staging a general sit-in tomorrow at all Lebanese mosques following the Friday prayers to tell the world that Israel's presence in southern Lebanon is rejected, that all kinds of resistance will continue against it, and that all its attempts will not yield useful results.

Nuclear Energy Agreement With USSR Ratified

JN300616 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Moscow — The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet has ratified the agreement that was concluded by the governments of the USSR and Syria on cooperation in the field of using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

Moroccan Minister Arrives With Message 29 Dec

JN291552 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Moroccan Minister of Transportation Mansouri Benali arrived in Damascus this afternoon.

He was received at Damascus International Airport by Minister of Transport Yunis Muhammad and the Moroccan Embassy staff in Damascus.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, the Moroccan minister declared: I am carrying a message for President Hafiz al-Asad from the Moroccan king. Included in this note is an official invitation to President Hafiz al-Asad to participate in the Islamic summit that will be held in Casablanca in the middle of next month.

Received by Khaddam

JN291848 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1815 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus, 29 Dec (SANA) — 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, received Mansouri [Benali], Moroccan minister of transportation, today. They discussed the current Arab situation.

AL-BA'TH on 'Arafat's 'Plot,' Camp David

JN300847 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 30 Dec 83

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, *AL-BA'TH* writes: The Camp David accords have begun to expand in order to reach other Arab regions beyond Egypt. 'Arafat has been the key in U.S. hands because he was the first to forgive the treason of As-Sadat. The Palestinian cause and the blood of the Palestinian and Arab fighters have been the victims of As-Sadat's betrayal of the most sacred pan-Arab values. Despite the many fronts on which the representatives of Camp David are moving — from Paris to Baghdad, from Nigeria to Amman, and from Washington to Tel Aviv — it is clear that 'Arafat's plot and his treasonous line have revealed a number of deals. 'Arafat's treasonous line is meant to deceive the Arabs and the world into believing that the Palestinians have conceded their rights in Palestine on the basis of 'Arafat's flouting of Palestinian legitimacy, his pledge to surrender his weapons, reliquish the path of sacrifice, and replace it with Jordanian-U.S. domination of the Palestinian people and their future.

AL-BA'TH adds: All these moves will remain formless, weak plots. This is so because the United States — which has received the Palestinian and Egyptian cards from 'Arafat and As-Sadat — is convinced that regional decisionmaking will not slip from the Arab hands represented by the Syrian position and the Palestinian people's insistence on defeating anti-Palestinian plots. Therefore, the United States has entrusted certain Arab regimes with paving the way for a possible U.S.-Israeli military onslaught.

However, regardless of the strength of the plot or the weight of those who hatch it, 'Arafat, the Camp David partners, and all those wading in the U.S. quagmire must realize that Syria and the Arab masses are the decisionmakers, and that 'Arafat will only create a storm that will sweep away both him and those who sought the protection of the U.S. plot against the most sacred pan-Arab cause.

Damascus Radio on 'Arafat's 'Treasonous Moves'

JN291600 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat has exceeded all limits in slighting the PLO and its legitimate institutions. Thus, his behavior is in harmony with U.S.-Israeli policy against the Arab nation, a policy which has not changed since the 5 June 1967 act of aggression. 'Arafat has purposely timed his defeatist and treasonous moves with the anniversary of the Palestinian revolution, thereby hoping that this will be the last time the Palestinian people celebrate their revolution, and that he will be able to convince the U.S. Administration and the regimes revolving in its orbit of his sincere intention to work for the objectives of the U.S. Administration and those who bear grudges against the Palestinian people and their cause.

It has been less than 1 week since 'Arafat's bombshell, and developments since then have indicated that this bombshell was not newly planted, but, rather, had been in existence since 'Arafat assumed leadership of the PLO. The timing of this bombshell was not solely his own making; several other parties participated in the planning as well. When negotiating with the U.S. envoy while bombs were dropping on besieged Beirut, 'Arafat did not conceal the existence of an agreement between him and that envoy. When the Sabra and Shatila massacres took place, he frankly admitted that the massacre was contrary to a secret agreement he had reached with Philip Habib. Furthermore, 'Arafat did all he could to undermine the internal situation in the PLO. He rejected all calls for reform, as well as all the PLO committee's proposals to patch up differences and end Palestinian infighting. 'Arafat exceeded all bounds in disavowing Palestinian legitimacy — whether within the Fatah movement, where the crisis began, or within the PLO and its institutions, where the crisis spread and expanded.

'Arafat's behavior was not only indicative of dictatorial tendencies. It was also part of a well-conceived plan which began when 'Arafat embraced the traitor As-Sadat following the latter's announcement before the Egyptian People's Assembly that

he had destroyed the psychological barrier and that he would go to the Israeli Knesset. Subsequent events and developments cast more doubt on 'Arafat's behavior and desecration of the blood of thousands of martyrs, who chose martyrdom as the path to Palestine and armed struggle as the only method for liberation.

Yesterday, the U.S. Administration revealed some of the guarantees it obtained from Yasir 'Arafat. The Reagan administration said through one of its spokesmen that 'Arafat agreed to change the objectives of the PLO and to cancel the Palestinian National Charter. He also gave a firm pledge to lay down his arms and to seek the peace process provided by the Camp David accords. Despite the concern they showed toward 'Arafat's pledges in the new phase, the Camp David partners did not conceal a number of facts, foremost of which is the fact that 'Arafat was actually interested in the success of Anwar as-Sadat's policy and that he is now more interested in opening all closed doors.

The talk about Israel's objections to 'Arafat's Cairo visit was an Israeli deception to cover up 'Arafat's true line. What is being being repeated inside Israel today concerning the freezing of settlements is only a prelude to a quick response to the U.S. game. But Israel, which is a partner in the game of protecting 'Arafat and the U.S.-Jordanian plan, has not forgotten that its Zionist strategy calls upon it to expand, insist on aggression, and impose humiliating conditions on the Arabs. At a time when reports about freezing the settlements were being repeated, certain parties within Israel were also saying that Israeli law would be applied to the occupied West Bank and Gaza, just as it is applied to the occupied Golan Heights.

Therefore, the 'Arafat line would only bring one new thing, namely, revenge against the Palestinian revolution, the death of the Palestinian people's aspirations, and the dissipation of Arab hopes for solidarity and unity in the effort to regain the usurped rights. The objectives of the Zionists and the Americans — which are now backed by the 'Arafat line — will not save the plotters and will not succeed, because Palestine does not belong to a single person who can dispose of it any given time. The Palestinian people, backed by the rifle and pan-Arab solidarity, will foil the plans of all those who pinned their hopes on 'Arafat and his line.

Cabinet Session Held, No Decisions Issued

TA301226 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1155 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Now we turn to the prime minister's office, to our economic affairs correspondent Gadi Sukenik. The long Cabinet session is over.

[Sukenik — live] Yes, the long session ended a few minutes ago. Most of the ministers are already leaving the prime minister's office. As was expected, no decision was made. As far as we know from the initial details, the finance minister reviewed his economic plan, the budgetary framework for the coming year. Only a few ministers managed to express their views. So far we have not heard about serious differences of opinion, at least not during this session, and Minister of Energy and Infrastructure Yitzhaq Moda'i, whom we questioned a few minutes ago, also said that the fact that no decision was made does not mean that there were serious differences of opinion among the ministers.

[Begin recording] [Moda'i] In fact, at the beginning of the session it was decided that we would not make decisions at this session, and this was also announced to the public. This does not mean that the solutions are easy ones, definitely not.

[Sukenik] What about the actual plan, do you agree with the principles of the plan that the finance minister presented?

[Moda'i] You do not know the program. What will it mean to you and the public if I agree or not, since the program is not known. What I read and heard were excerpts of the program. The entire document is only principles, and it is not yet a program. These are principles that lay down a policy. What I can say is that, in fact, there are three problems. The first problem is, will we, through the policy and the program that follows it, cure the ills of the economy? [end recording]

[Sukenik] The second problem presented by Moda'i was whether the coalition would accept it. He actually thinks that this approval can be obtained. And further is the question of whether the public will accept it. Moda'i thinks the answer to this will be positive. Altogether, what Moda'i said contained a veiled hint of criticism at the fact that there is no detailed program as yet, there is only a completely verbal definition. It is reasonable to assume that this was also the criticism of other ministers.

Further on Cabinet Session

TA301431 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] In 2 days, the Cabinet will continue to discuss the economic plan and next year's budget. At today's Cabinet session, the finance minister presented the principles for setting the state budget. Our correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that a good atmosphere prevailed in the session: Seven ministers took the floor, and most of them refrained from criticizing the new economic policy. The defense minister expressed objection to cutting the defense budget again, and its was decided that his objections will be discussed. The prime minister emphasized that the Cabinet is assuming the responsibility to resolve the serious economic problems. If a decision is made at Sunday's session, the various budget cut clauses will be discussed by the ministers' committee on economic affairs.

New Economic Policy Includes 'No New Measures'

TA291957 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Let us begin this newsreel with economic issues, naturally, and the document of principles the finance minister will submit to the Cabinet tomorrow. The document, called "A Framework for Economic Policy in 1984" and dated 30 December, has reached our economic affairs correspondent; it includes no new measures. The first Cabinet session to discuss the principles of the new economic policy devised by Finance Minister Yig'al Kohen-Orgad will be held tomorrow. Once again, it includes no new measures and makes no mention at all of articles regarding state budget cuts. The document merely states the objectives of the economic policy and declares the intention to effect a sharp cut, involving some $1 billion, [figure as heard] from the 1984 state budget.

Kohen-Orgad on Budget Cuts

TA301514 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Among the other cuts, the finance minister suggests cutting the budgets for the new settlements both in Israel and in the territories; repeal the free high school tuition bill; and enforce a tuition system based on income.

Kimche Meets With Visiting Egyptian Minister

TA291750 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] The second working session between the Egyptian deputy foreign minister who arrived in Israel this morning and Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche ended in Jerusalem a short while ago. This afternoon the Egyptian diplomat conferred with the prime minister, who made it clear to him that Israel will be prepared to resume the autonomy talks and incorporate Jordan and representatives of the Palestinian Arabs into them as well, although Israel will not accept the participation of the PLO or 'Arafat in the negotiations. Here is a report from the studio by our Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a:

Although the atmosphere in the marathon talks held in Jerusalem today was friendly and warm, one must not forget that the first senior Egyptian official who arrived in Israel, for the first time since the war in Lebanon broke out, came only following the heavy pressure applied by the U.S. Administration on Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali during his visit to Washington last week. This is a return visit, reciprocating that by Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche to Cairo last month, and was originally scheduled to have taken place 2 weeks ago. But the Egyptians cancelled it then and gave no reason for the cancellation.

In today's talks, the Israeli side by and large held the speaker's seat, whereas the Egyptians were on the receiving end. And in a message Shafi'i 'Abd al-Hamid transmitted to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir from Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, Egypt once again emphasizes its commitment to the Camp David accords and the continuation of the peace process. After the meeting with the prime minister, the Egyptian deputy foreign minister told us:

[Begin Al-Hamid recording — in English] Certainly the dialogue between Israel and Egypt will continue in order to achieve our mutual goals. [end recording]

[Barne'a translates the above into Hebrew and continues] The prime minister explained to the Egyptians that under no circumstances will 'Arafat and the PLO be permitted to be participants in the negotiations process. He argued that in order for the peace process to progress and for additional countries join it, normal and good ties between Egypt and Israel must be maintained as encouragement and incentive. The prime minister explained that Israel believes peace without normalization is not full peace, and the fact that the Egyptian ambassador has been absent from Israel for over a year now proves that the state of relations is abnormal.

Other topics that were raised at the talks were the freeze on the normalization accords in the fields of commerce, tourism, and culture, and the hostile attitude toward Israeli affairs in the Egyptian press. The subject of renewing the Tabah border dispute talks will only be broached at the last working session, scheduled for this evening in Tel Aviv.

Al-Hamid Departs 30 Dec

TA300827 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Egyptian Deputy Foreign Minister Ash-Shafi'i 'Abd al-Hamid left Ben-Gurion Airport this morning on his way back to Egypt at the end of a short mission. Before he boarded the plane, he said the talks he held in Israel had been conducted in an atmosphere of friendship and sincerity, and were intended to lead to acceleration of the peace process. He also thanked the prime minister and the director general of the Foreign Ministry for the warm reception he was given in Israel.

West Bank, Gaza PNC Members Discussed With Envoy

JN291933 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Telephone dispatch from Huda Tawfiq, Radio Monte Carlo correspondent in Cairo on 29 December — recorded]

[Excerpt] Egypt has asked the Israeli Government to allow West Bank and Gaza PNC members to participate in the PNC's forthcoming session, expected to be held within 1 month. I have learned that this subject was one of the most important topics which Egyptian Deputy Foreign Minister Ash-Shafi'i 'Abd al-Hamid discussed with the Israeli Government. It was also one of the topics contained in the oral message which Ash-Shafi'i 'Abd al-Hamid conveyed to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

It is well known that there are approximately 160 PNC members in the occupied territories. The occupation authorities had previously prevented them from leaving the territories to take part in previous PNC meetings, or threatened not to allow them to return to the territory if they left.

This Egyptian request falls within the framework of the measures to establish confidence for which Egypt has been asking Israel for years This request also acquires special importance in light of the intensive efforts and attempts to push the peace process forward.

PNC Conference Attendance Sought

TA291938 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] An Egyptian source reported this evening that President Mubarak would like Israel to permit more than 100 activists from the territories who are members of the PNC to participate in the PNC conference in which the PLO's political line will be debated. Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari says that the implication of such a request is actually asking Israel to help Yasir 'Arafat to ensure a majority for himself within the PLO. Our correspondent says that Israeli sources were not prepared to confirm this evening that such an Egyptian request was actually raised today before Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, but it is clear that Israel will reject such an idea outright.

Bombs Explode at Two Hebron Mosques 30 December

TA300609 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Two bombs exploded in Hebron at dawn in two mosques. There was an anonymous phone call to the Voice of Israel's newsroom saying that it was Qiryat Arba' inhabitants who placed the explosive charges. It has been reported that one of the charges exploded in the mosque inside the casbah when the watchman opened the door. The guard was wounded. IDF forces closed off the casbah and the roads leading to it, and set up roadblocks.

More Attacks Threatened

NC300654 Paris AFP in English 0647 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Jerusalem, Dec 30 (AFP) — Bombs exploded in two mosques at Hebron on the Israeli-occupied West Bank today, leaving one Moslem worshipper injured, and self-styled Jewish "terrorists" warned further attacks would follow.

The warning came from an anonymous caller to Israeli state radio, on behalf of TNT or Terror Against Terror, claiming the two blasts and adding there would be more "bloody" attacks later today.

"We will kill all the Arabs," the anonymous caller said. Israeli security forces, who announced the explosions, surrounded the mosque district amid escalating tension. The attacks on the

mosques were immediately condemned by the Jewish settlement council at Qiryat Arba' near Hebron.

TNT Claims Responsibility

TA300713 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0637 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Excerpts] The TNT group, Terror Against Terror, has taken responsibility for the attack on two Hebron mosques. An anonymous phone call received this morning by the IDF newsroom announced that further attacks will be carried out today in the West Bank, which will lead to loss of life. Our correspondent Asher Fisch explains:

[Fisch — live in studio] At 0530 two hand grenades exploded in two mosques, ('Ali Baqa' and Al-Zatar) in Hebron. The hand grenades exploded after the watchman opened the door, noticed a suspicious object and moved away from the entry. The watchman was slightly wounded as a result of the explosion. He was treated and released. A short time later another hand grenade exploded in the other mosque. Nobody was hurt in that explosion.

A short time ago there was an anonymous phone call to the IDF Radio and Voice of Israel newsrooms announcing that the TNT organization had taken upon itself the responsibility for placing the hand grenades in Hebron. The speaker said that further explosive charges would be placed today which would kill local inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria.

This is the third time that this organization has taken responsibility for placing hand grenades. Each time the grenades were placed in a similar way, at the entry to mosques and Christian religious sites. The police are trying to investigate the organization's activists, but without any real progress so far. The organization was active about 10 years ago, and resumed activity about a month ago, but its members are unknown to the police.

Lebanon Overflights Draw Syrian Fire 29 Dec

TA291820 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Israeli aircraft made repeated mock dive-bombing attacks over southern and eastern Lebanon today. This was reported by eyewitnesses in the areas affected. They said the mock attacks came in three waves: at dawn, at midmorning and noon over Lebanon's southern cities and the eastern Al-Biqa' Valley.

Syrian antiaircraft batteries opened up on the planes, but the reports said there were no hits. At one point, Syria scrambled warplanes when Israeli planes flew over the border between the two countries on the Golan Heights.

This was reported by Lebanese state radio, which said there was no contact between the two countries' jets. Neither Syria nor Israel confirmed the report.

MK Yitzhaq Rabin Assesses Relations With U.S.

TA300722 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 30 Dec 83 p 7

[Report on interview with Alignment MK Yitzhaq Rabin by Knesset correspondent Asher Wallfish, in the Knesset building: date not given]

[Text] "It was an extremely short honeymoon. In fact, it only lasted three weeks. But after all, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir was kidding himself when he proclaimed to the world that a new era had arrived in relations between Israel and the United States."

This was the tart comment of Labour's former prime minister, Yitzhaq Rabin, on the government's agitated reaction to official satisfaction in Washington over the Cairo meeting between President Husni Mubarak and PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat last week.

"Talking about a new era does not square with the fact that the U.S. Administration knew about the Mubarak-'Arafat meeting beforehand, helped arrange it, and encouraged the two men to get together," Rabin told me in the Knesset building.

In a tone of wise rebuke, Rabin said: "The trouble with this government is that it doesn't look the facts in the face. For instance, its entire approach to the question of 'Arafat's departure from Tripoli was incoherent, although the government claims it put up a deliberate smokescreen.

"Preventing the evacuation of 'Arafat was impossible for us, yet the government created the impression that it wanted 'Arafat to stay in Tripoli — despite our stated purpose of getting all foreign forces out of Lebanon.

"While the government was mumbling along here, the U.S. Administration was steadily proceeding with its plan to pluck a weakened 'Arafat out of Tripoli and enhance his image a little so that he could give King Husayn of Jordan a political go-ahead."

Hearing Rabin analyse an international political development is always a sheer intellectual pleasure. Whatever you may say about his ultimate picture, you have the feeling that he understands the elements of the situation better than anybody in the present government.

He does not wear the blinkers which are so obvious on some ministers, nor is he swayed by the irrational reactions of a former generation which influence other ministers.

Rabin readily admits that the talks held by Shamir and Defence Minister Moshe Arens in Washington took place in a very friendly atmosphere, but suggests that the government never understood what lay behind the friendliness.

He is sure that after June 1984 the U.S. Administration will withdraw the Marines from Lebanon. "I told Under Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger that the actions of the Soviet Union and other countries will help determine who'll be the next

man in the White House, if the Marines stay in Beirut during the election campaign," Rabin confided.

Recalling the steady objection of Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger to the American military presence in Lebanon, Rabin referred to "that Pentagon general who said, 'It's the wrong place and without a partner.'

"I believe that President Reagan is gradually realizing this is a no-win war," says Rabin. "And Pentagon generals don't like no-win wars. America cannot win any political achievements in Lebanon because it cannot alter the military facts there. It cannot do a repeat of Grenada."

Rabin suggests that there are people in the Pentagon who have been saying that 100,000 American soldiers in Lebanon could knock Syria out and alter the facts on the ground. They know this idea is fanciful, and are suggesting it because they want to attain a practical objective which is precisely the opposite: a total American withdrawal.

"I agree with the prevailing view in the Pentagon that Syria and the Soviet Union together have more influence on the future of Lebanon than Israel and the United States together," says Rabin. "There can be no solutions to Lebanon's future without Syria. What Israel can handle is the zone 45 km. north of the border, which is essential for security. But I wouldn't predict how long we can continue to handle it if we don't reckon with Syria."

He points out that events in Lebanon are being dominated by Syria and its Druse and Shi'ite allies at the present time. "They're working hand in hand to prevent the emergence of a strong central government. True, the Druse are not letting the PLO terrorists establish themselves in the Ash-Shuf mountains. But that's a separate matter."

Rabin says that the U.S. Administration wants to facilitate its own withdrawal from Lebanon next year, in a manner which will enable it to save face, by having the IDF stay put for the next three to six months at least.

"It is ready to pay us a price — but a non-political price. A bigger grant. More military aid. Declarations of intent with regard to offset purchases and a free trade area, the practical implications of which still remain to be seen."

Rabin believes that the Pentagon is resisting the strategic cooperation agreement with Israel to this very day. "The Pentagon's reservations were intensified after the Shi'ite terrorist attacks in Kuwait. The generals worried that terrorism was threatening to undermine the Persian Gulf oil states and was bypassing Israel. And they could not forget the fact that the real arena of superpower rivalry in this part of the world, since the second World War, is over Arabian oil.

"For the Pentagon, the central issue for decades has been holding ground in the oil states, or losing ground. So, from the generals' point of view, the Lebanon affair — which they never agreed with — has boomeranged against American interests in a more important region.

"By now, this line of reasoning has influenced the White House, too. And in any case, the American public doesn't see any sense in the whole Beirut operation, and never did. No wonder people like Walter Mondale and Jesse Jackson are criticizing the way they do, and precisely at this time," Rabin says.

When Rabin talks, one never feels that the phrases mould the ideas, that the form dictates the content. His line of reasoning takes him only as far as he wants to go, and no further. He quotes statesmen and politicians, strategic analyses and newspaper comment — not philosophers and writers. He doesn't look for intellectual crutches; perhaps that's one reason he's been accused of intellectual arrogance at times.

Rabin gives some credence to what he calls "a rumour" that U.S. leaders have told President Amin al-Jumayyil they give him five months to establish wider control in his country. "The Americans want a face-saving solution in Lebanon, and they don't want to wait," he told the *POST*.

"So, by June, if Israel has not made any new moves in Lebanon, it could stay there, alone with its soldiers, and perhaps come under American pressure to withdraw before the minimal conditions for the security of the northern border have been assured," he warned.

The former chief of staff does not think much of the strategic cooperation agreement with the United States, which Shamir boasted about so much on his return from Washington and about which former Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon boasted even more, in his day.

"Why did we have to run after the Americans?" he asks. "Should they be interested in strategic cooperation, they know our address. Nor do I think much of their prepositioning their stores here. My first concern is for Israel's security interests."

He snorts at the theory that this country can deploy the IDF on a large scale and at Israel's own initiative to attain long-range political and military objectives. (He knows the father of that theory, Sharon, only too well, from decades in uniform together. Yet, when Rabin was prime minister, he went out of his way to engage Sharon as a security adviser, which made some people wonder.)

"The war in Lebanon has proved conclusively that you can't force normalization and peace in this region with military superiority; you can't bring Palestine Arab terrorism to an end with an invasion; you can't land Syria the sort of military blow which would be effective in the long term.

"However, Israel could attain a reasonable, though far from ideal, security arrangement in a 40 to 45 km. strip of southern Lebanon, provided it does not stipulate a Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon or the emergence of a strong government in Beirut.

"What I mean," says Rabin, "is a partial unilateral implementation of the security clauses in the Israel-Lebanon agreement.

"It entails local brigades between the border and the Az-Zahrani River and the deployment of UNIFIL between the Az-Zahrani

and the Al-Awwali River. Syria and the Soviet Union, who have no objections in principle to UNIFIL, would jump at the idea of getting the Western military presence out of Lebanon and waving the Multinational Force goodbye."

Drawing on his own intimate knowledge of Congressional, public and media opinion in the United States — a knowledge which is probably less hidebound and more perceptive than that of anybody in today's government — Rabin says: "I had reservations about the Multinational Force idea from the start, because we always had a moral argument vis-a-vis the American public. We often repeated to them that Israel did not want one single drop of American blood to be shed in our interests.

"Now it's true that it wasn't Israel's idea to put Marines into Beirut and that they aren't there for our security. But we still have to stress to the Americans that we don't want their soldiers to assume any responsibility in southern Lebanon."

Rabin has no illusion about who has come out on top in Lebanon. "Syria is sitting pretty. It doesn't need to make another war over Lebanon, and its soldiers don't need to fire a single shot. Nor, of course, does the Soviet Union. They both have agents doing the shooting on their behalf; militias battling with the sovereign government. What could be more ideal for Damascus and Moscow? What could be worse for Washington?"

He sees UNIFIL as a screen to keep the Syrian units in Lebanon from advancing and to be an effective barrier against "most" terrorist forces. Although there was some terrorist infiltration and shooting before the 1982 war, he concedes, the PLO needed to fire real artillery in order to leapfrog effectively over the UNIFIL zone at a time when it was narrow.

He believes Israel could take the wind out of the Shi'ite sails and neutralize their hostility by proving that it is not in Lebanon to remain as a conqueror. It could also show that it will not serve as an agent of the Al-Jumayyil regime to suppress them. "Then we could help the southern Shi'ites to build a military force solely destined to keep out the PLO."

The obstacle to his concept, says Rabin, is Shamir's insisting, to this very day, on the evacuation of all foreign forces, including the Syrians. "If our prime minister has his way, we'll still be sitting in Lebanon in 1994," Rabin warns.

"But I wouldn't fire another shot to shape the future of Lebanon or thwart the creation of a Greater Syria. There is only one reason to justify making war: to ensure the existence of my country."

Labor Party Favors Withdrawal From Lebanon

TA300606 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] In consultations by Labor Party leaders, the following position is becoming clear: The IDF departure from Lebanon should be accelerated, while safeguarding local security arrangements, and without making the IDF withdrawal dependent on the Syrians' departure. This was stated by MK Abba Eban to our political correspondent. He thinks that while IDF soldiers continue to be killed in Lebnaon, no one in Israel can understand why the government is insisting on the existence of an agreement with the Government of Lebanon, and why it is babbling, as he phrased it, about conditions for its departure from Lebanon, conditions that may, perhaps, be in existence when the Messiah comes. MK Eban thinks that if the Labor Party returns to power in about a month there will be an electrifying change, as he phrased it, in the area, because it will declare that all the territories held by Israel will be up for discussion, and not as the government claims, that it is all ours.

Labor Party Group Condemns Hebron Explosions

TA301041 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] The Labor Party's Mashov Group has expressed anger at the evil deeds of the Jewish underground in the territories. In an announcement the group states that the government, which is speaking about coexistence between Jews and Arabs in the territories, cannot be content with an announcement about increasing attempts to find the guilty persons, and ignore the Jewish underground.

Herut Secretariat Calls for Support for Kohen-Orgad

TA291907 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] The Herut Movement's secretariat is supporting the prime minister and calling on Herut ministers to make a show of unity and support the finance minister's plan, which will be presented to the Cabinet on 30 December.

Peace Now Protests Against Settlements

TA301013 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] The Peace Now movement is maintaining a protest this morning opposite the prime minister's office, with a demand to stop all investment in the territories, uproot the settlements, and invest the money in welfare and education. The Peace Now movement says that it is support for the settlements that is encouraging the TNT organization and other underground groups in Judaea and Samaria.

Civil Service Workers Continue Protest Actions

TA300638 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 30 Dec 83 pp 1, 13

[Report by Charles Hoffman, Aaron Sittner, Judy Siegel and Joshua Brilliant]

[Excerpts] The ferment in the country's civil-service unions continued yesterday as workers at the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Interior Ministry maintained their sanctions, and vowed to carry on their protest actions until their demands are met.

In Tel Aviv the Clerks Union, one of the largest in the Histadrut, threatened sanctions in all municipalities and local authorities, unless negotiations over pay increases are begun immediately.

The country's 4,500 postal workers yesterday agreed to stay on the job and negotiate their wage demands with the Communications Ministry. The workers have threatened to resume sanctions or declare a general strike if a settlement is not reached within a week.

Defence Ministry employees are to begin protest action today, a court order restricting them having expired.

The staff of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs have turned down a request by the Knesset Labour and Social Affairs Committee to submit their demands to arbitration, and have vowed to intensify their actions on Sunday. Their sanctions have forced dozens of ministry institutions for children and the aged to close their doors this week.

The three major women's organizaitons — Na'amat, Emuna and Witzo — announced yesterday that they will close their day-care centres on Monday if they do not receive IS 150 million from the ministry on Sunday. The staff have not paid suppliers of ministry institutions, nor have they sent cheques to welfare organizations subsidized by the ministry such as the women's organizations' day-care centres.

All 23 Interior Ministry offices throughout the country will be virtually closed to the public again today as angry workers continue their protest sanctions to press for higher job grades for more than half the ministry's 800 workers.

Aircraft Industries, Tadiran To Produce Drone

TA300616 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] and the Tadiran Company have agreed to establish a joint company to produce a drone, the tiny pilotless plane, for the IDF and for export. This has been learned by our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal. A committee appointed about a year ago by the Ministry of Defense recommended giving Tadiran the mission, but as a result of protests by IAI it was decided to freeze the implementation of those recommendations. Defense Ministry Director General Menahem Meron has said that the ministry encouraged the establishment of the joint company because the competition had prevented progress in production of the drone.

Wave of Terrorist Attacks Predicted

TA290955 Tel Aviv YOMAN HASHAVU'A in Hebrew 29 Dec 83 p 14

[Commentary by Natan Ro'i: "Tension in Israel After 'Arafat's Departure"]

[Excerpt] In the next few months, Israel will see further scenes of shattered buses and defused bombs as were seen in Petah Tiqva and other sites in Israel (this past week), which are only the beginning of the PLO organization's activity after its departure from Tripoli.

The Israeli security establishment has not yet worked out a new way to respond to the new situation created right after 'Arafat's withdrawal from Tripoli.

This week, authoritative security elements expressed the view that the attacks against IDF soldiers in the Lebanese Al-Biqa' will increase over the winter, and those responsible will be the rebel terrorists, who will be given massive Syrian support until the snow on the slopes of the Al-Matn and Ash-Shuf Mountains melts.

Terrorist activity in Judaea and Samaria will increase and reach catastro[illegible] [last word in English] dimensions toward the end of January, and there is no longer any doubt that 'Arafat has not laid down his sword, but is taking a tactical break. His goal is to recover rapidly, return to Lebanon, and continue the long march to Jerusalem.

By this move — the latest and most shameful — 'Arafat has again succeeded in confusing the Government of Israel and achieving what was unbelievable before his departure from Tripoli: causing differences of opinion between Arens and Shamir.

Morning Newsreel To Adopt New Format 1 January

TA291004 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 29 Dec 83 p 8

[Report by Roli Rozen]

[Text] From 1 January 1984 the Voice of Israel will broadcast its 0700 [0500 GMT] newsreel in a new format. The editors' team will include Yoram Avgar and Shalom Qital in Jerusalem, and 'Oded Sapir and Dalya Ya'iri in Tel Aviv.

The newsreel's permanent anchormen will be Shalom Qital and Yitzhaq Ro'e. The newsreel will be based on live interviews and reports on news to be given by the two permanent anchormen and reporters from the staff.

In addition to the existing topics, there will be additional columns and weekly corners, such as: a permanent column for foreign affairs, local news, consumers' interests, financial advice, medical advice, culture, sports, music, and theater.

Ansarit Camp for Women Terrorists Reported

TA290959 Tel Aviv BAMAHANE in Hebrew 28 Dec 83 p 5

[Report by 'Eran Shenker]

[Text] The fact that alongside the Ansar camp, there is a camp in Lebanon called Ansarit to hold several dozen female terrorists was released for publication this week.

To date, the only news of the Ansarit camp for female prisoners was in the foreign press, and there were very few details about the camp.

A *BAMAHANE* team visited the Ansarit camp 9 months ago and heard about the structure, whose Hebrew name is 'Edna (the female form of 'Eden, the name given to the Ansar detention camp).

There are only a few dozen prisoners in Ansarit, in contrast to the thousands jailed in the Ansar camp. However, the guard over the few female terrorists was very careful.

The structure was established in one of the IDF units in southern Lebanon and covered an extremely small area. It was build of cement and divided into many rooms, in which the prisoners are housed.

The female prisoners captured by the IDF during and after the Peace for Galilee war were active terrorists in the terrorist organizations, and the companions of the leaders of the terrorist organizations.

"The female prisoners were treated superbly and behaved in a civilized fashion," policewomen from the military police who had been instructors to the prisoners told *BAMAHANE*. All the female instructors went to Lebanon voluntarily and said the stay in the prison had been a special experience for them. "At first it was difficult to sit together in one room with female terrorists who had murdered people, but we overcame this and now we are not scared to be with them," the female soldiers said.

BAMAHANE was also told that representatives of the International Red Cross were in the habit of visiting the female prisoners and checking their conditions. At the same time, visits by families to the building were banned, but they were permitted to send letters, as is the custom in the Ansar camp.

ALGERIA

SWAPO Leader Sam Nujoma Pays Brief Visit

Received by Foreign Minister

LD291346 Algiers APS in English 1034 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Algiers, 29/12/83 (APS) — Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi received yesterday Sam Nujoma, chairman of the South-West African People's Organisation (SWAPO).

SWAPO, [as received] currently on a visit here, conferred also with Mudjahidin (Veterans) Minister Dejelloul Bakhti Nemiche.

Departure From Algiers

LD292303 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] The visit paid to our country by the SWAPO chairman has ended. Before leaving Algiers today, Mr Sam Nujoma stated that his visithere gave him the opportunity to inform Algerian leaders about the latest political and military developments in Namibia.

LIBYA

People's Congresses Discuss Foreign Relations

LD291535 Tripoli JANA in English 1419 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Tripoli, Rabi al Awal 24, Dec 29, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Some of the Basic People's Congresses have started discussing Libya's relations with foreign countries on the basis of these countries' political stands on Arab national issues, as well as their attitude toward the Jamahiriyah's international role.

The BPC masses realized the importance of this subject because of the colonialist countries' repeated attempts to undermine the Libyan Arab people's stands. Therefore, the existing cooperation with these countries, in the light of new attitudes, should be reviewed and decided upon decisively.

The masses participating in these congresses discussed the aggressive U.S. and French stands towards the Libyan Arab people and analyzed the Jamahiriyah's present relations with the two countries, particularly economic and trade relations, and arms purchases from these countries.

The masses participating in the discussion suggested boycotting Western arms and finding substitutes for such a market.

The congresses also discussed the diplomatic relations which have recently been established with the Zionist entity and suggested that Libya's relations with these countries should be severed.

SUDAN

Numayri Briefs Cabinet on Recent Visits

JN291828 Khartoum SUNA in English 1730 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Khartoum, Dec, 29, (SUNA) — The Council of Ministers held its regular meeting today lasting three hours during which it listened to President Numayri's report on his working visit to Italy, the Vatican, France, the United States and Britain.

Commenting on the trip that was conducted in an effort to boost Sudan relations with all the world's nations on the basis of mutual respect and common interest, Numayri outlined the details of his discussions, meetings and visits in the countries he toured and their positive results. The president hailed the intimate ties that link Sudan to the countries he visited and expressed his wish for increased fruitful constructive cooperation with those countries.

Numayri further commended the technological advancement of the Italian, French and American companies that are or on the way to implementing economic development projects in the Sudan. He also discussed the strong links binding Sudan and Britain and conveyed to the cabinet the British Prime Minister Mrs. Margaret Thatcher's assurances on directing her government to remove all obstacles to the completion of the third power project.

The president furthermore informed the cabinet about the results of his visit to Kenya and the meeting held with the African heads of state he met during that country's independence anniversary celebrations.

Numayri Receives Moroccan Envoy, Invitation

JN291815 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1715 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Khartoum, 29 Dec (SUNA) — President Numayri today received a written message from His Majesty Moroccan King Hassan II. The message includes an invitation to President Numayri to participate in the Islamic summit scheduled to be held in Morocco in January.

President Numayri received Hachemi Filali, Moroccan minister of religious endowments and Islamic affairs and the envoy of King Hassan II.

Following the meeting, the Moroccan envoy said that he and President Numayri reviewed bilateral relations and that President Numayri promised to respond to the invitation.

More on Summit Invitation

JN291206 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1035 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Khartoum, 29 Dec (SUNA) — Hachemi Filali, Moroccan Minister of religious endowments and Islamic affairs and the envoy of King Hassan II, has asserted that King Hassan II pins

great hope on the participation of his brother President Numayri, as one of the Islamic world leaders, in the Islamic summit conference to be held in the latter half of next month in Casablanca.

Filali arrived here last night bringing a message from the Moroccan monarch, including his majesty's invitation to President Numayri to participate in the summit. He noted that the Islamic world's aspirations depend on this conference, which will convene in difficult circumstances and amid challenges and problems that are facing the entire Islamic nation. Filali said that the aspirations depend on the Islamic leaders, kings, and presidents to unify their ranks and draw up plans that will regain the glory, stability, and progress of the Islamic nation.

The Moroccan envoy began his tour in Chad, where he delivered a message from the Moroccan monarch to Chadian President Habre. Following his meeting with President Numayri, the Moroccan envoy will leave for Uganda to deliver a similar message to Ugandan President Milton Obote.

SOMALIA

Siad Barre Stresses Country's Hunger, Poverty

AU281932 Rome ANSA in English 1915 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text](ANSA) Mogadishu, December 28 — Somalia, a country which sees itself as "forgotten by everyone," needs urgent aid from Europe in its fight for agricultural and industrial development, but also to ward off the threat it perceives as coming from the left-leaning government in Ethiopia, Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre told a small group of Italian reporters here today.

The leader of the former Italian colony, which he said is "miserably hungry," told them that Italy is not helping as much as it could, but he also called on all ten EC Countries to give decisive aid in this crucial moment for Somali development.

Somalia is one of the poorest countries in the world. In the midst of a sea of troubles, it has made the first steps towards some form of industrial action, but is major problem, apart from defense, is to feed its people.

A big factor in the diversion of scarce resources is the (?virtual) state of war with Ethiopia, which (?as) the Somali leaders claim is a Soviet-backed threat to Somali sovereignty.

"The other ex-colonial countries hold their former territories in high consideration and help them in many ways," said Siad Barre, "while Italy has forgotten Somalia."

"I and my country are left miserably defenseless, and also hungry. We have always put reserves aside, but now, dramatically, we no longer have anything."

The Somali president's message is simple: To overcome famine and hold off Ethiopia, Somalia needs Europe and, above all, wants Italian help to pull out of the crisis.

In the last three years, Italy has supplied Somalia with [word indistinct] lira plus budget-support aid of 75 billion lire and 75 million dollars as aid to refugees.

According to Siad Barre, Somalia's previous alliance with Moscow was now "dead and buried," making this strategic nation in east Africa a reliable Western partner.

The general told the reporters that he failed to understand what appear to be Italian hesitations in relations with Somalia. "I met Pertini in Rome recently and I once more invited him down to visit us," he said. "Pertini is a great man who speaks his mind. I do not understand why he has been in so many other places, but never here."

"In more than twenty years of independence, we have never seen an Italian president, or head-of-government.

"Who must I count on?
"Who can I count on?
"I have to be able to count on someone....."

TANZANIA

Cooperation Communique Signed With Comoros

EA301141 Dar Es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 0400 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Dar es Salaam: Tanzania and Comoros have agreed to strengthen cooperation with a view to stepping up trade, communications, information, and cultural links. They have also called for positive steps to be taken to implement the agreement reached.

The foreign minister, Ndugu Salim Ahmad Salim, who returned home yesterday after ending his four-day visit to the Comoros Islands, told newsmen that his visit had been successful.

In a joint communique issued in Moroni at the end of his tour, the two countries agreed that Air Tanzania and Air Comoros should begin operations between the two countries as soon as possible. They also agreed to initiate direct sea communications as soon as practicable and to exchange sea transport, air communications, and meteorological experts.

To facilitate travel, trade, and communications, the two countries have agreed to embark on direct postal, telephone, telegraphic and telex services.

On trade, the joint statement said that Tanzania and Comoros had agreed to form a trade commission to review trade and communications between traders of the two countries, as well as with foreign trade organizations. It has also been agreed that a bilateral trade pact will be signed as soon as preparations have been finalized.

The statement also stressed that there will be exchanges of groups of cultural and musical troupes, students, teachers, and dancers.

The two countries have also agreed that the Comoros should join the Zanzibar-based Institute of Cultural, Scientific, and Foreign Language Research.

CHAD

GUNT Official Comments on Addis Ababa Meeting

AB292230 Paris AFP in French 1019 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Paris, 29 Dec (AFP) — The meeting on Chad, scheduled to take place in Addis Ababa on 9 January, "can mark time but must not fail," Wadal Abdel Kader Kamougue, the vice president of Goukouni Oueddei's Transitional National Union Government (GUNT) and one of the principal Chadian faction leaders, thinks.

During the exclusive interview granted on Wenesday to AFP in Paris where Mr Kamougue was on a private visit, the Chadian leader from the south called on all the factional leaders "to forget their personal ambitions" and concern themselves "with Chad's division and sufferings." He stressed his optimism, asserting: "The Addis Ababa meeting must bring us to the path of a process of return to peace." The leader of the Chadian Armed Forces (FAT) said that his faction has just set up a political organization, the Chadian People's Revolutionary Movement (MRP) created at a meeting held from 14 to 20 December in Kintele (Congo). Mr Kamougue was elected president of the movement. The MRP drafted some proposals for the Addis Ababa roundtable conference in Kintele.

Refusing to reveal these proposals, Mr Kamougue nevertheless indicated that according to him, the process which would be elaborated at Addis Ababa should lead to elections and that the movement would advocate "a decentralization of Chad, which everybody, except the dictator in Ndjamena, desires" (President Hissein Habre). "Chad today is paying for the errors of colonization and the borders set by it. Chad is too vast and its institutions and structures, including the cultural and national ones, are completely unadapted to it," Mr Kamougue said, and added: "The form of the decentralization is open to discussion." However, he said: "For the moment, the federation is a bit dangerous for Chad."

In order to facilitate the eventual organization of elections, Mr Kamougue does not rule out the possibility of France, which is militarily present in Chad, playing a role if the OAU and the various factions request this." He reaffirmed his "condemnation in principle" of the French intervention, without which, according to him, "the problem would have been resolved a long time ago, because the GUNT forces, and not the Libyans — who only supply arms — would have driven away Hissein Habre." Mr Kamougue stressed that "in so far as France keeps its word and does not interfere, we can only be happy about this attitude." On the spot in Chad, "the military situation preserves its status quo," according to Mr Kamougue. In the south, he said, "there is resistance against the Ndjamena government, but instructions have been given that goodwill must be displayed" before Addis Ababa.

According to Mr Kamougue, "France wants the Addis Ababa meeting to take place and hopes peace will return to Chad, where it does not want to engage in a war." He considers that this is one reason for the hope that the meeting will be held and results reached.

Questioned on the GUNT's attitude in case the meeting is not held, Mr Kamougue chose to laugh and threw back the question by asking: "What will France do then?"

Moreover, Mr Kamougue furnished some details on the recent creation in Bardai (north Chad) of the "National Liberation Council" (CNL) in whose formation "Colonel Kamougue fully took part."

The CNL, he explained, "is a political organ superior to the GUNT and which gives guidelines to the latter and aims at wiping out the factions and resolving the contradictions in order to bring all Chadians under one banner on the progressive and socialist basis." According to him, this grouping must one day be able "to open up itself to all Chadians, no matter what their present faction, but without giving privileges to persons." For him, "it is not necessarily" the foreshadowing of a one-party regime.

CONGO

Communique From Sassou-Nguesso Angola Visit Reviewed

AB290805 Brazzaville Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Excerpts] President Denis Sassou-Nguesso returned to Brazzaville this afternoon from Luanda, where he held talks with his Angolan counterpart yesterday. Before leaving the Angolan capital, the head of state visited an Angolan cement plant and met the Congolese community in Luanda. At the end of his visit to Angola, a final communique was issued. Here is Marcel Malle giving the highlights of the communique:

Comrade Sassou-Nguesso has just returned from Luanda, where he held talks with Angolan political and government officials. During the official, friendly, and working visit, the two sides discussed the respective experiences of the MPLA-Labor Party and the Congolese Labor Party [PCT] in their efforts to lead our people to socialism and eventually promote economic complementarity between the two nations. The Congolese people reaffirmed their support to the Angolan people in their struggle against the barbaric acts of the racist South African regime. In this regard, the two countries expressed their common determination to try to materialize this desire to achieve economic complementarity through concrete actions. Another major point of the final communique is the signing of a general cooperation agreement between the MPLA-Labor Party and the PCT. These two points show President Sassou-Nguesso's desire to enhance the Lagos plan of action, which calls for the creation of subregional economic communities.

The final communique also points out that the two sides exchanged views on ways and means of reviving the relations of friendship and cooperation. The Congolese delegation appreciated the efforts being made by the Angolan people toward national reconstruction and for the achievement of (?better conditions). They also condemned the fresh acts of aggression by racist South Africa against the population and the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Angola which has caused considerable

loss of human life, as well as material and economic damage, and which is a serious threat to peace. In this connection one can say that southern Angola is going through a difficult situation.

ZAIRE

Soviet Maritime Delegation Visits Bas-Zaire

AB281800 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1045 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Matadi, 27 Dec (AZAP) — The Soviet maritime delegation, which is led by Deputy Minister Beletskiy, arrived in Matadi, capital of the Bas-Zaire region, on Monday from Kinshasa. The delegation, which is on a working visit to Zaire, was received by Citizen Makolo-Jibikilayi, the regional governor and chairman of the local branch of the Popular Movement of the Revolution [MPR]. After the audience, he expressed his great satisfaction over the Soviet delegation's visit to Bas-Zaire, which he said was the country's only region with maritime facilities.

For his part, the Soviet deputy minister expressed his delegation's interest in the facilities of the Matadi harbor. The organization set up in that port is sufficient proof of the amount of work carried out there every day. Mr Beletskiy also stated that his country was ready to promote cooperation with Zaire both in the maritime sector and in other economic fields. He further extended his New Year's greetings to all the people of Bas-Zaire through their regional MPR chairman.

The Soviet delegation will return to Kinshasa on Tuesday afternoon after visiting the Mobutu bridge and the Inga hydroelectric dam.

29 Dec Departure

AB291520 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1420 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Excerpt] The Soviet delegation was accompanied to Bas-Zaire by Citizen Kabeya Wa Mukeba, ambassador of Zaire to Moscow, and Citizen Ilunga, adviser at the department of transport and communications. The Soviet delegation, which has been on an 8-day visit to Zaire within the framework of the deliberations of the Joint Zaire-USSR Commission on Maritime Transport, leaves Kinshasa on Thursday for Moscow via Brazzaville.

Mobutu Sese Seko, Houphouet-Boigny Exchange Notes

AB291725 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1145 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Kinshasa, 28 Dec (AZAP) — Mr Gaston Allonko Flankan, the ambassador of the Ivory Coast and dean of the diplomatic corps accredited to Kinshasa, stated on Wednesday to AZAP that there is perfect understanding between the Ivory Coast and Zaire and that the excellent relations between the two countries are matched only by the friendship that unites their two presidents, Houphouet-Boigny and Mobutu Sese Seko. Mr Flankan made this statement a while before-leaving Kinshasa for Abidjan to bring a message from leader Mobutu Sese Seko to his Ivory Coast counterpart. The Ivorian diplomat, who did not reveal the contents of the message, was returning that very morning from Gbadolite, where he went and delivered a message from the Ivorian head of state to Marshal Mobutu. Mr Flankan is scheduled to return to Kinshasa next Friday.

President Promulgates 1984 National Budget

AB292140 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1300 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Kinshasa, 28 Dec (AZAP) — MPR founding chairman and President of the Republic Mobutu Sese Seko has just promulgated Law No 83-009, signed on 27 December 1983, which provides the 1984 national budget. The law reads as follows:

Law No 83-009 of 27 December 1983 on the 1984 State Budget.

The Legislative Council has adopted the following law which the MPR founding chairman and president of the Republic hereby promulgates:

Chapter I: Budget of ways and means

Article 1: The state's 1984 current receipts are estimated at 20,051,034,664 zaires and are allotted according to the table contained in Annex No 1

Article 2: The expected receipts for the 1984 fiscal year are estimated at 1,054,352,399 zaires allotted according to the table contained in Annex No 2.

Chapter II: Expenditure Budget

Article 3: The appropriation of 21,156,534,644 zaires has been earmarked for current expenses. It will be allotted according to the table contained in Annex No 3.

Article 4: Expenditures within the framework of the chapter on budgetary expenses can be made until 31 October 1984.

Article 5: The expected expenditures during 1985 will only be made in proportion to the corresponding receipts.

Article 6: [passage indistinct]

Article 7: Payment appropriations amount to 1,494,500,000 zaires. They are available for capital expenditures in 1984. They are distributed in the table in Annex No 4.

Article 8: In order to cover excess expenditures mentioned in Articles 3 and 7 and expected receipts mentioned in Article 1, the state commissioner for finance and budget is authorized to seek one or two loans of an amount not exceeding 2 billion zaires during the 1984 fiscal year.

Article 9: The implementation of the state budget during the 1984 fiscal year must be in accordance with the laws, rules, and procedures in force.

Article 10: This law comes into effect on 1 January 1984.

[Signed] Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko Kuku Ngbendu Wa Za Banga, 27 December 1983, Kinshasa.

NIGERIA

President Shagari Delivers Address on Budget

AB291210 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0945 GMT 29 Dec 83

[President Shehu Shagari's 1984 budget statement to the National Assembly in Lagos — live]

[Text] Mr President of the National Assembly, Mr Speaker, distinguished senators, honorable members: Before I proceed to discharge my constitutional responsibility of presenting our budget proposals for the coming year to this joint session of the National Assembly, I want first to congratulate all of you wholeheartedly for your well-deserved victory at the polls. The experience of the last general elections has been exciting and challenging, but the outcome was rewarding to the nation. It was a triumph for democracy.

Allow me, therefore, to remind you of the weight of our responsibility to the masses who have freely given us the mandate to guide the destiny of this great and dynamic nation. The Constitution of Nigeria states that the will of the people is supreme. This will is expressed through you, the elected representatives of the people. [Passage indistinct] I have no doubt that the people of this country have in you made a wise and right choice and I trust you will not let them down. Indeed, the demands on you are going to be greater than ever before. With the caliber of the patriotic statesmen and women I see before me, I am convinced that this nation will be able to settle all problems successfully.

This is the first joint session of the second National Assembly. It is also the first budget proposal of the new administration. It is, therefore, opportune for us to rededicate ourselves in the service of our nation, indeed, with a moment of reflection and resolution. The budget is, therefore, a budget of rededication — rededication in our resolve to fight against the forces of economic recession, to fight against all evils in the society and, in particular, those evil elements who, through carelessness, selfishness, and greed are out to destroy our economy and our (?country). It is a budget which is out to uproot those outmoded and exploitative economic structures that have been with us for so long. It is a budget that faces the realities of our time. It depicts a determination to face challenges squarely and to find solutions which have to be resolutely implemented in order to revamp our economy. It is one that demands sacrifice from all if we are to recover from the blows of the current universal economic recession.

It will be recalled that in my budget address to the joint session of the National Assembly last year, I drew the attention of the nation to the very severe and prolonged situation in which the whole world found itself from the year 1980. The effects of this worldwide economic depression on the economies of developed and developing nations alike has been very devastating. This has resulted in low or negative growth of output and employment in the industrialized nations, with a corresponding fall in demand for raw materials, which constitute the major item for foreign exchange earnings of the developing countries. This unhappy situation has led to a serious financial crisis in most countries of the developing world. Every country faced with such problems has to devise a way out. Some have chosen to approach the IMF for assistance. Some refused and even devalued their currencies. Some have sought solutions through the rescheduling of their external debts.

Even though the World Bank's 1983 report states, and I quote: The recession that has affected the world's economy since 1980 seems to be easing, unquote, nonetheless the economic condition of many developing countries have not improved. In fact, they appear to have worsened. The world's economy is certainly not yet out of the (?slump). Simply comparisons show that in the industrialized countries of the world, the rate of growth of the gross national product [GNP] dropped from 3.4 percent in 1979 to an estimated figure of only 1.6 percent in 1983. There has also been a drop in the current account of developing countries. While in 1979, the records in the developing nations showed a surplus of $7.6 billion, in 1983 there is an estimated deficit of $95 billion. I feel it is necessary for me to give you this brief picture of the trend of the world economy as a background for your proper understanding of the performance of our own national economy in 1983 and the prospects of 1984.

In the 1970's, Nigerians (?rejoiced) glibly about the oil boom. It was not without adverse effects [words indistinct]. Money was at that time said to be no longer a problem in the execution of projects. The effect of this oil boom hysteria resulted in many of our people abandoning farming and other stable professions that had helped to sustain the economy and earn foreign exchange. Many felt that it was no longer necessary to work in order to earn a living, certainly not on the farm and the like. Many of our people simply turned into contractors of all sorts. Some became arrangees [as heard], suppliers, boarding agents, and all sorts of agents and consultants of all types and descriptions.

Thus, Nigeria gradually came to depend almost entirely on a single item, namely oil, as the foreign exchange earner. Traditional export items such as cocoa, coffee, groundnuts, palm kernels, and so on, were no longer produced in sufficient quantities, even for local consumption. Thus, our whole life and our economic existence as a nation became closely tied to the vagaries of the oil market. Clearly, this is a dangerous situation for any nation. It is a situation that we must reverse at all costs.

Global economic recession has now forced the industrialized countries of the world to resort to energy conservation as a matter of policy, thus decreasing their demand for oil. The total demand of OPEC oil, which stood at 31 million barrels per day in 1977, today stands only at 17.5 million barrels per day. We are aware that in 1980, we based our fourth national development plan on an estimated 2 million barrels per day at $40 per barrel. Today, the production quota allocated by OPEC is only 1.3 million barrels at a reduced rate of $30 per barrel. This enormous decline has resulted in a colossal loss of revenue which has necessited a thorough reappraisal of our plans for the economic development of the country. The situation was so serious that for 3 weeks in February 1983, this year, our oil consumers simply refused to lift [as heard] because of the glut on the market. They opted to pay a penalty for nonlifting rather than lift the oil and incur heavier losses. This situation, put against our promises and commitments in the fourth national development plan, placed an unbearable strain on our economy in 1983.

Far-reaching adjustments became inevitable and we made them. The causes and effects are so simple to understand. They do not require any dialectic theory to explain them. [Passage indistinct] In 1982, our GDP [gross domestic product] was 28.5 billion naira, while this year, 1983, it is estimated to be 27.3 billion naira, showing a drop of 4.4 percent. This drop reflects the depressed oil sector of our economy which has an adverse effect on the other sectors. Value added in the petroleum sector, for instance, declined from 4.4 billion to 4.1 billion, a fall of nearly 7 percent. It is, however, significant to note that the agricultural sector is recovering from the stagnation of previous years and would have recorded a rate of 3 percent in 1983 but for the drought, the full impact of which is yet to be assessed.

Mr President of the Senate, Mr Speaker, distinguished senators, and honorable members: In the area of public finance, federally collected revenue in 1983 was estimated at only 8.55 billion naira as against the budgeted figure of 9.307 billion naira. This implies a shortfall of about 8 percent. Out of this, the revenue due to the Federal Government amounts to 5.147 billion. When compared with a recurrent expenditure of 5.278 billion, this implies a recurrent budget deficit of 131 million naira.

With a capital expenditure of 6.1 billion, the overall deficit of the year amounts to 6.231 billion during the year 1983. In the external sector, the various economic measures applied have succeeded in reducing imports from 11.3 billion naira in 1982 to only 8.5 billion naira in 1983, a decrease of about 25 percent. I fully appreciate the sacrifice that Nigerians have had to make in order to achieve this. Exports also fell from 8.7 billion naira to 7.5 billion naira. As a result, the balance of payments on current account recorded a deficit of 2.9 billion naira. This is a significant improvement from the 4.9 billion naira deficit recorded in 1982. When capital transactions are taken into account, the overall deficit in 1983 is a mere 0.112 billion naira. It should, however, be noted that the external sector of the economy is still in difficulty due to the backlog of short-term trade debts currently estimated at 5 billion naira.

In the area of licenses, some of the measures taken to protect our external reserves have undoubtedly contributed to the upward movement in the general price level. It is estimated that the rate of inflation in 1983 will be in the region of about 20 to 25 percent. This level of inflation may appear disturbing, but it is not too high a price to pay in order to conserve our foreign exchange reserves and maintain the credit-worthiness of this nation. Given our present financial situation and the trend in the demand for oil, it is clear that a structural adjustment of the economy is imperative. To this end, we have taken a number of measures. First, we have taken a hard look at the level and nature of government expenditures. The 1984 draft estimate has been prepared to reflect this need.

Secondly, I have directed that all government projects be classified into core and non-core categories. This is meant to establish priority rating for these projects in the light of our present performances. Accordingly, capital expenditure will from now on be concentrated mainly on core projects. Other measures being taken include diversification of revenue sources, reviewing the strategy of agricultural production so as to attain self-sufficiency in food and industrial raw materials, divesting government of some holding in selected corporations and companies, pursuing more vigorously the policy of cost recovery for services provided by government, and facilitating the importation of essential goods currently in short supply. During this period, the government intends to secure a [word indistinct] adjustment loan from the World Bank and a balance of payments loan from the IMF. This is in addition to the rescheduling of our short trade debts recently concluded.

Obtaining such loans is quite normal. It is, in fact, one of the main advantages accruing from membership of these organizations. [Passage indistinct] What is important is to ensure that the terms of the loan are reasonable and that we do not accept terms to jeopardize the prospects for our longer term economic recovery. I must emphasize, however, that the process of adjustment is not without pains. But we should all remember that the sacrifice we make today will guarantee our economic well-being tomorrow. I therefore appeal to all Nigerians to cooperate fully with the government in order to revamp the economy.

Mr President of the Senate, Mr Speaker, distinguished senators, and honorable members: I now turn to our policy objectives for the fiscal year 1984. In view of the current financial conditions briefly reviewed above, we intend to pursue the following objectives:

1. Reducing the level of importations and curtailing the outflow of foreign exchange to achieve substantial improvement in the balance of payments position;

2. Stimulating domestic production and employment opportunities with particular emphasis on reversing the declining trend in industrial production of food and raw materials;

3. Generating increased revenue from non-oil sectors; and

4. Attaining a more efficient resource allocation and holding down the general price level.

An objective of government policy during 1984 will, as earlier indicated, aid in the improvement in the balance of payments and reserve positions. Accordingly, out of estimated foreign exchange earnings of 8.564 billion naira during 1984, 562 million naira will be set aside in order to raise the level of external reserves from its present level of less than a billion naira to 1.464 billion naira at the end of 1984. The balance of 8 billion naira will therefore be available to meet the country's projected foreign exchange commitments during the year. Of this amount, 3 billion will be utilized in servicing external loan commitments, while 5 billion will be applied to pay for the importation of raw materials, machinery, and spare parts, essential commodities, and other items in the current accounts section of the balance of payments.

In view of the fact that the depression in the world oil market will continue to limit our ability to increase foreign exchange earnings, the current exchange control measures will broadly be maintained. In the new year, appropriate modifications will come into effect to remove difficulties currently experienced by individuals and business organizations in the administration of these regulations. [applause]

Thus, the administration of Form M [connected with import licenses] and the allocation of foreign exchange will become the responsibility of commercial and merchant banks and the other organized dealers in accordance with the guidelines to be issued by the Central Bank of Nigeria and will remove the present congestion and delay in the administration of foreign exchange by the Central Bank. It will also enable the bank to concentrate on its statutory and traditional functions of supervising and regulating the financial system more effectively.

As one of the major tools of managing the economy, monetary policy will be coordinated with the fiscal and other policies to deal with the major socioeconomic problems which continue to bedevil the economy. In this regard, particular attention is being given to the rise in the price level, to the declining industrial output, unemployment, and unfavorable balance of payments. Relevant economic indicators dictate a policy of monetary and credit restraint. The current credit guidelines which prescribed an overall ceiling as well as a sectorial distribution of credit from commercial and merchant banks will be reshaped for 1984.

It has, however, been observed that the detailed sectorial and subsectorial divisions have tended to make compliance difficult for the banks and, in some areas, have unduly curtailed their freedom of action. Accordingly, a simplified structure of credit allocation will be applied to enhance the initiative and the credibility of the banks. A review of the existing interest rates structure has revealed the need to make certain adjustments in the light of the prevailing economic conditions in the country. The deposit interest rate and the lending rate with the exception of those for agricultural loans have been raised by about 2 percent. This increase in bank deposit rates is intended to stimulate domestic savings and promote capital formation. The lending rates were similarly increased in order to ensure more efficient resource allocation. It will be recalled that last year I invited the attention of the National Assembly to the problem of illegal currency trafficking. The problem is still with us. I want to assure you that the government is taking appropriate measures to combat this evil. The law enforcement agencies will spare no efforts in dealing ruthlessly with economic saboteurs. Nigerians should appreciate the fact that they have a duty not only to refrain from engaging in this unpatriotic business, but to expose those who engage in it. [applause]

Despite a continued economic depression, we could regard the year 1983 as a year during which relative industrial peace prevailed throughout this country. This situation reflected in part the success of the incomes policy pursued by this administration in the last 2 years. A lot of credit for this must, however, go to the workers themselves, who have remained patriotic in the face of the present difficulties. I urge all our labor unions in the country to continue to cooperate with the government in its efforts to revamp the economy.

In the coming year, income policy measures will focus on two main areas. Firstly, the government will intensify efforts to remove the present shortage of essential goods and raw materials so as to protect the real income of the masses. [applause] The government will encourage the optimum use of the capabilities of well-established and reputable companies and organizations with a nationwide network for the distribution of essential commodities. This will complement the facilities available through cooperatives with demonstrable capability to deliver these commodities at reasonable or approved prices to the general public. As a means of bringing further relief to our people, the government of the Federation will, in cooperation with the states and local governments as well as trade unions and similar bodies, check the antisocial activities of greedy middlemen. In addition to this, the government will intensify the drive for higher productivity in every sector.

Mr President of the Senate, Mr Speaker, distinguished senators, and honorable members, having dealt with some of the major policy issues of the 1984 financial year, I would like to speak now on the revenue and the expenditure proposals of the year. The estimated federally collected revenue for 1984 is 10.944 billion naira, out of which a sum of 1.373 billion naira will accrue exclusively to the Federal Government. The balance of 9.570 billion naira goes into the Federation account in accordance with Section 1491 of the Constitution. The share of the Federal Government from the Federation account in accordance with the allocation of the Revenue Federation Account Act 1981, is 5.263 billion naira, while the states and local governments will have 3.349 billion and 0.957 billion naira, respectively. [applause] When account is taken of the independent revenue, the total revenue is expected to be available to the government of the Federation in 1984 is estimated at 6.637 billion naira. The revenue expectation of 1984 has taken into account the international as well as the domestic sectors that influence the oil and non-oil source of revenue. The forecast of oil revenue is based on an average daily production of 1.3 million barrels per day at the (?weighted) official selling price of $29.45 per barrel. However, it is important to emphasize that the oil market still remains unpredictable. More than ever before, the need to diversify our revenue sources and rely less on oil has become imperative. Accordingly, the carrying out of a reform of the parastatals engaged in essentially economic activities is continuing with the view to ensuring that they will be self-reliant and, in fact, endeavor to generate income for the government. Such parastatals will be encouraged to explore sources of funding their operations other than from the treasury. [applause] In this connection, two new heads of estimates — national loans fund, head 255, and price supporting subsidy to parastatals and government-owned companies, head 58 — have been created so as to terminate the practice whereby budgetary allocations were provided for individual parastatals under the head of estimates of their supervisory ministries and departments. With the creation of the new heads, all parastatals and government-owned companies will be required to justify their request for loan or subsidy from the government before such funds are released. The government will also ensure competence and responsible management of parastatals in order to enhance their financial viability. [applause]

A review of the development in the economy during the last few years underscores the critical state of the nation's finances both on the domestic and external fronts. While the total revenue from oil and non-oil sources has been on the decline, there has been a steady growth of expenditures which resulted in a steadily rising budgetary deficits. The repercussions of mounting deficit financing and the effect that huge debt servicing will have on the national economy are so great that our country can simply not afford to continue along that path. Furthermore, as a means of

mobilizing additional resources, a general reduction in the level of subsidies provided by the government through the pricing of goods and services will be effected as an urgent necessity.

While talking about revenue allocation to the various spheres of government, it is pertinent to recall the recent Supreme Court ruling which has made it necessary to amend the existing Revenue Allocation Act. I will soon place before the National Assembly a draft bill which will seek to amend the act. [applause]

On [word indistinct], the sums set aside for the exclusive use of mineral-producing areas are made available for their development without further delay. [applause]

Now recurrent expenditure: The recurrent expenditure of the Federal Government of the Federation for the 1984 financial year amounts to 5,171,111,230 naira including consolidated revenue fund charges of 1,445,174,650 naira, which is the first charge on the consolidated revenue fund. Compared with the approved figure of 5,278,781,440 for 1983, the recurrent expenditure proposed for 1984, including the consolidated revenue fund charges, shows a decrease of 107,070,210 [figure as heard] naira, which is approximately 3 percent of the corresponding figure of 3,833,606,790 naira for 1983.

Against the background of the tendency to prescribe percentage increase over recurrent expenditure in previous years, this decrease shows this administration's determination to give a strong lead in the unpleasant but necessary task of cutting back on available expenditures and any manifestation of waste. To make the most of the limited financial resources at our disposal, there is no alternative to managing them with utmost prudence and taking firm and ruthless measures against waste. To this end, government will strengthen internal audit units to ensure a strict compliance with financial reservations and curb the incidence of (?fraud).

[Words indistinct], I proposed an estimate of 4.66 billion for the 1982 [as heard] financial year compared with that of this year, which is 6.59 billion. There is a decrease of 1.93 billion, which is approximately 29 percent. The proposed capital expenditure will be financed by the current surplus of 1.47 billion, 1.41 billion internal loan, and 1.79 billion external loan. This budget is predicated on a deliberate attempt on the part of this administration to reorder priorities in favor of the economic sector. By means of such an [words indistinct], the economy and the fact that loans raised will be used mainly as stimulant to protect the investments, increase output [words indistinct] the possibility of price stabilization and the simultaneous rise in the level of employment. In this connection, emphasis will be placed on the production of goods and services which will be of direct benefit to the masses.

As part of the [words indistinct] referred to earlier and the rationalization of government expenditure, I have appointed a task force under the chairmanship of my special adviser on budget, director of budget, to review all ongoing projects which require more than 30 million naira to be completed. He will also identify and distinguish between projects which [words indistinct]. The [word indistinct] would thus comprise a project or components of projects that have high priority and which should be completed in due time. The [word indistinct] projects would include projects which have generally lower rates of return and would be executed more slowly over a longer period or be temporarily shelved or even abandoned.

Mr President of the Senate, Mr Speaker, distinguished senators, honorable members, so far I have dwelt at some length at the economic sector, touching on the situation globally as well as nationally. At this point I consider it appropriate to highlight some aspects of the program of this administration and I start with agriculture.

If there is any time in the history of this country when we must accord agriculture the highest priority, it is now. [applause] We will therefore not relent in our efforts. Fortunately, the Green Revolution program which was launched in 1980 has continued to make steady progress in spite of temporary setbacks experienced this year as a result of the widespread drought and the outbreak of rinderpest in some parts of the country. Already, substantial increases in the production of maize, rice, poultry, and fish have been recorded. There have been significant achievements in the fight against desert encroachment and in a wide range of rural infrastructure such as roads, agro-service centers, water supply schemes, and fishing (?terminals). Early in the new year, relief will be distributed to all states affected by drought. [applause] Henceforth, greater emphasis will be placed on the provision of [word indistinct] and facilities throughout the country to minimize the effect of drought. Furthermore, in order to encourage a much greater private sector participation and inject a large measure of commercial attitude into government parastatals and agricultural production, a special fund is to be established. This fund is to be used for financing specific bankable agricultural projects to boost the production of food and raw materials. This financial provision will be additional to the normal credit allocation to the agricultural sector.

Water resources: As part of the policy on general development of rural areas through the provision of drinkable water, this administration intends to complete the first stage of national borehole program. Under this program, 612 boreholes are being successfully sunk all over the country. We intend to embark on the second phase which will bring the total to 2,000 boreholes within the next 4 years. [applause] With the present drought ravaging many parts of the country, this government will undertake the development of small irrigation schemes and build numerous [word indistinct] dams in various localities for the benefit of small-scale farmers all over the country.

The 11 river basin development authorities are the principal instruments for the realization of the Green Revolution program. The facilities provided by these basin authorities to farmers in the areas of their jurisdiction such as land clearing, provision of improved seedlings, construction of irrigation canals, fish-ponds, construction of access roads, and processing of some food crops will be expanded.

In addition, the river basin development authorities will be actively engaged in the procurement and distribution of agricultural implements and tools. They will also assist in providing credit to farmers to enable them to produce more food. [applause]

In the execution of the foregoing projects, emphasis will be on cost-effectiveness, employment of direct labor and maximum utilization of the existing facilities by the river basin development authorities.

On commerce and industry: The merger of the former Ministry of Industries and Ministry of Commerce into a single Ministry of Commerce and Industry was directed partly toward reducing costs and partly to streamline the functions of the two former ministries. The machinery for issuing import licences is being overhauled with the view to ensuring that the allocation of our limited foreign exchange reserve conforms with the national priorities and that only genuine and well-established firms and entrepreneurs obtain import licenses for materials and goods to be used directly in their business operations. [applause] In this regard, manufacturing industries will be categorized and the essential commodities classified to ensure proper allocation of the scarce resources.

A review of our industrial policy and strategy has become necessary in the light of our experience and changes in the economy of the country. The review is in cognizance of the need to actively encourage Nigerian industries to maximize their utilization of input which can be obtained or developed locally. It is also aimed at attracting a greater flow of local and foreign investments into the industrial sector. To this end, consultations with the organized private sector, which have already started, will be sustained and made to serve effectively the purpose of harmonizing government decisions and actions with the genuine needs of the private sector.

The impediments experienced by exporters of agricultural and industrial commodities will be systematically removed. Also, incentives will be given to producers to utilize fully their capacity and expand so that Nigerian prodcuts may gain a good share of export markets round the world, especially in ECOWAS countries. A budget allocation of 118.4 million naira has been made available to this sector for fiscal year 1984, representing 5.9 percent of the total budget. [applause]

Communications: The bills submitted during our first term and which were aimed at reorganizing the Post and Telecommunications Department by giving it a corporate status regrettably could not be passed into law. Because this reorganization is of vital importance to the ability of the department to operate more effectively and efficiently, I intend to resubmit the bill for your consideration. I look forward in the course of 1984 to a substantial completion of the national transmission network which has been under construction for the last 3 years. When this happens, the nation will enjoy substantially improved telephone services. Adequate arrangements will also be made in 1983 [as heard] for the maintenance and the upkeep of the sensitive and expensive equipment which has been installed all over the country to ensure that the nation derives full benefit from its investment.

In the area of mail delivery services, other improvement in terms of security and speed is expected when the present level of letter boxes which stands at 217,410 goes up to the 1 million mark in 1984. [applause]

Within the fiscal year 1984, the major policy decision and goal of the present administration is to complete the phases one and two of the ongoing federal housing program for the low- and medium-income groups, particularly in the provision of infrastructure to over 300 sites scattered all over the country. This will provide about 60,000 houses at affordable costs to the low- and medium-income earners. [applause]

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, our movement to the new federal capital Abuja has already begun. The enabling laws for the administration of the capital territory, which will make the management of the public affairs in the territory much easier, has been passed.

On the physical site, an appreciable development has been achieved. Efforts are continuing to encourage private sector's participation in the development of the capital city. Plots of land have been allocated to foreign missions to develop their embassies. Also over 2,500 plots have been allocated to individuals on application. Similarly, industrial plots have been allocated to a number of industrialists, some of whom have gone in for building their factories.

Education today constitutes one of the most sensitive issues of public interest. I want to seize this opportunity to assure the nation that this administration will be faithful to its pledge to provide free functional and qualitative education [applause] despite our difficulties.

It is necessary that every effort be made to curb the present trend of accumulating arrears of teachers' salaries. You are all aware of my concern over this problem to the extent that the Federal Government had to intervene this year by providing funds to state governments to assist them in tackling this problem.

However, with a view of finding a permanent solution to the problem, I have recently set up a presidential committee to advise on the funding of primary education all over the country. This panel has already completed its task and has submitted its report. A (?white) paper will be issued shortly on this issue while further consultation with all concerned will be held with the view to finding out how best to achieve this basic national objective.

The technical workshops envisaged for the junior secondary schools will be available for the first take of students in 1984. I am greatly concerned that the federal universities be placed in a position which will enable them to discharge their responsibilities to the nation effectively. Therefore, even in the face of the general financial setback, recurrent allocations to the universities have substanially been increased over the 1983 provisions. I am of course aware that even this increased provision can barely meet their needs. But I expect the universities to join the nation's efforts for reducing costs, stretching their resources, and generating internal revenues. In this connection, I have already approved that governments should patronize university consultancy services. Appropriate guidelines to this effect will soon be issued.

On health: Provision of adequate and efficient health care involving promotive, preventive, curative, and rehabilitative ser

vices will continue to be one of the priorities of this administration. During my first term in office, over 520 million naira was invested in the federal health projects and programs in all the states of the Federation. These capital expenditures incurred include 245.2 million naira on the development of new teaching hospitals; 42.6 million on the primary health care scheme and the control of communicable diseases.

Projects scheduled for commissioning in 1984 include the 300-bed National Eye Center in Kaduna; Mobilizing House, which is a 180-bed accident ward at the National Orthopedic Hospital in Lagos; the new University of Sokoto Teaching Hospital; a specially equipped national chemistry laboratory in Lagos; a central medical library in Lagos; and central community health practice centers for the rural communities and medical programs of various federal university teaching hospitals.

The 1984 proposed recurrent subvention for federal university teaching hospitals alone amounts to 112.6 million naira out of the Federal Ministry of Health's recurrent provisions of 162.6 million naira.

Transport: As in the first term, this administration will give top priority to the development of the transport sector of the economy. An even development of the transport sector would assist in the rapid and orderly development of the other sectors of the economy and contribute to the overall strategy of combatting inflation in the country.

Accordingly, our strategy in the context of current economic recession has been to highlight core areas of development in the following programs:

Nigerian Railway Corporation: The emphasis in the incoming year is placed on the maximization of available resources through proper maintenance and repair. Arrangements will be concluded early in the year for the establishment at Kaduna of the proposed factory for the local assembly of coaches and wagons.

Efforts will also be made to purchase more rolling stock to meet the demands for the transportation of raw materials and finished products from the various rolling-mills. Equally, wagons will be modified to suit the movement of containers and billets.

As part of the overall program for manpower development for the railway industry, efforts will be geared toward the immediate kickoff of the Nigerian Institute of Transport Technology in Zaria. [applause] To ensure a safer system of rail transportation, realignment of curves and the reduction of gradients will be effected. Also the complementary rail bridge being built across River Niger to link Ajaokuta will be completed by the end of 1984. [applause]

Nigerian National Shipping Line: With the expected increase in the number of ships and based on current predictions for world economic recovery, the Nigerian National Shipping Line intends to cover more routes as well as increase its activities on the existing routes. The company will acquire its own containers in the shipping industry instead of the present system of hiring at exhorbitant costs. About 5,000 containers will be required eventually, but in 1984 it is planned to acquire 1,250 on the basis on contracts already awarded.

Nigerian Ports Authority: Two major projects are currently under execution, namely, the Federal Ocean Terminal in Rivers State, and the Delta Port Access Channel. The former on account of current economic consideration is being reviewed with the view to deciding on the new modalities for its execution in 1984. However, the latter, that is, the Delta Port Access Channel, is in full [word indistinct] and expected to be completed in 1984.

There are also two projects in the pipeline: Namely, the capital (?dredging) Calabar Exit Channel and the capital (?dredging) Bonny River to Ogu Creek. The two projects are being estimated to facilitate the use of Calabar port and the new Federal Ocean Terminal respectively by large vessels.

The civil aviation sector will continue to discharge its regulatory and other functions in order to make the Nigerian airspace as safe as possible. It will also continue to supervise the airport development program designed to provide this country with first-class airport and sophisticated [words indistinct].

Roads: In 1983, approximately 1500 kms of roads were constructed, strengthened with asphaltic concrete, or rehabilitated. With a capital budget of 170 million naira for 1984, the emphasis during the year will be on the completion of some ongoing projects. Priority will be given to the maintenance of the existing network. This includes strengthening with asphaltic concrete overlays and the rehabilitation of a few key priority areas.

Mines and Power: In the power sector, the execution of the hydro- and thermal-power projects in Jebba (540 megawatts), Shiroro (600 megawatts), Lagos (1200 megawatts) will be pursued in order to raise the installed generating capacity of the National Electric Power Authority from the present level of 2852 megawatts to 5192 megawatts by 1985. However, by September 1984, it is expected that the Jebba Hydroproject will contribute an additional 360 megawatts to the national grid. The development and acquisition of solar energy to supplement power from conventional sources particularly in remote areas of the country where the national grid [words indistinct] will be promoted. For further diversification of the sources of power supply, the production of coal will be linked with the generation of energy. To this end, the national coal corporation and the national electric power authority have been directed to work closely for the development and expansion of the Oyama coal mine which will enable the Oji River coal power station to increase its capacity from 30 megawatts to 120 megawatts. [applause]

New coal mines will also be developed at Okabba, Orokpa, and Aboyaga in Benue State. In the field of geological mapping, the target is to cover 80 percent of the total area of the country by systematic geological mapping at various scales.

Steel development: It is pleasing that all the targets set for the steel development sector in 1983 have been substantially achieved. Steel plants at Alaja, Katsina, Jos, and Oshogbo have been commissioned and are in production. In the case of Ajaokuta, the priority rolling mills have been commissioned and

the construction of the steel-making facility is going on. It is gratifying to note that the Alaja steel plant is already producing a limited range of industrial spare parts both for its own use and for [words indistinct].

Science and Technology: In the current state of the national economy, it is obvious that there are vast possibilities for science and technology to be exploited to aid national development. The policy which will guide government efforts in this area is currently in its final stages of articulation. It is hoped that when this is ready, the nation's efforts in the area of research and development will be more effectively directed. This policy will, among others, aim at a joint effort by government, the universities, and the private sector to solving scientific problems. In addition to the current effort to develop disease-resistant and [words indistinct] varieties, research aimed at making the nation self-sufficient in basic [word indistinct]. Our researches have played a leading role in the current breakthrough in producing brewing [words indistinct]. I look forward to the perfection of these and other indigenous technologies in 1984.

Armed Forces: All our plans for economic and social development will be meaningless unless the security and territorial integrity of the nation are assured. [applause] Government is therefore alive to its responsibility to equip and train the members of the Armed Forces as well as to cater for their welfare. The various projects in progress in respect of provision of operational facilities, training programs and combat readiness for the Armed Forces will be pursued in 1984. Also, financial provision will be made to meet commitments in respect of equipment that have been ordered by the Armed Forces. In order to enhance domestic training for members of the Armed Forces, the existing training institutions will be expanded and equipped. The proposed Armed Forces university, arising from the upgrading of the NDA [Nigeria Defense Academy] will no doubt play a vital role in the training of the high echelon of the Armed Forces. Army training areas and [word indistinct] will be developed. The navy technical training schools, seamen professional training schools, including command technical training centers, a naval supply school will be completed. The Nigeria Air Force Training School for the maintenance of aircraft will therefore be expanded.

The new Ministry of National Guidance is an amalgamation of the former Ministry of Social Development, Youths, Sports, and Culture and the Federal Department of Information. That ministry has been assigned the responsibilities hitherto performed by those agencies, with the added responsibility of ethical reorientation. By properly coordinating the functions of the various units of the new ministry, the main policy objective of upliftment of the moral tone of the nation, the mobilization of the public to develop a sense of patriotism, national consciousness, and improvement in the standard of sport, will be better realized. The ministry will implement the Federal Government's white paper on the report of the presidential commission on ethical reorientation. To accomplish these assignments successfully, the ministry and indeed the Federal Government will require full cooperation and support of the legislatures, the judiciary, as well as state and local governments and the general public. This is an enormous task, the impact of which will be felt in due course.

Police: The rising crime wave has been a matter of concern to the government. I want to assure you that no stone will be left unturned in our determined effort to protect the lives and properties of our people. Adequate provision has therefore been made to the police to enable them to purchase modern equipment and extend their services to every nook and corner of the country. Equal attention will be paid to their welfare. Indeed, the staff welfare of all sections of our law enforcement agencies, including prisons, customs, and immigration, is upmost in our plan with a more effective and efficient maintenance of law and order.

In the field of foreign affairs, our well-known and declared policy will continue to be vigorously pursued. We shall continue to play an active and leading role in African affairs, with particular attention paid to events around our neighbors. Similarly, our struggle to help liberate our brothers and sisters who are still in bondage in southern Africa and elsewhere, will continue. Our faith and commitment to all international organizations to which we are signatories, remain unshaken. Our missions abroad will be reviewed in order to eliminate redundancy and waste.

Mr President of the Senate, Mr Speaker, distinguished senators, honorable members, I consider it necessary to take up so much of your time to explain matters as much as possible, so as to leave no one in doubt as to the magnitude of the problems that we as a nation have to face and which for some time we shall continue to face. It is also necessary to explain as fully as possible the measures that we intend to take with your support and cooperation in order to deal with such problems efficiently and effectively. A problem that cannot be solved is one that cannot be identified. Happily, we have been able to identify our problems as well as their root cause. We are clear as to what needs to be done, with the cooperation of all our people who believe we shall succeed.

The budget proposals which I have presented form a package carefully put together and aimed at waging a relentless war against some unfavorable economic factors and against evildoers. It is a package which sets out the [word indistinct] and process of adjustment of our economy. As I said earlier, to achieve our declared goal, sacrifices will have to be made. I believe that all patriotic Nigerians will be ready and willing to pay a price for our economic revival and independence. It will also be our contribution to the global effort to get the world out of the current world economic recession. The challenges are great, but the outcome of our efforts will be most rewarding. Given the determination of our people to guard jealously our freedom, we shall certainly emerge a strong and prosperous nation. This is why I call for cooperation and sacrifice from all citizens of our country in order to combat our present economic difficulties. So I do welcome meaningful interaction between the public and the private sectors of our society. Every skill, every energy, every idea must be harnessed for the good of all. Admittedly, we had our share of occasional upheaval here and there. But on the whole, it is one nation under God that enjoyed peace and stability. We have always managed to solve our problems without resorting to a level of mortgaging our sovereignty or our proudly won 23-year-old independence. No matter what the adversaries of our nation may say or believe, it is a fact that Nigeria remains today on the continent of Africa, a model of democracy in action. If our political independence is to have true meaning, it must be complemented by economic independence. [applause] This is what we

must continue to fight and we intend to fight on, with all the skill and energy at our disposal until the battle is won, so that we can proudly claim to be a model not only of democracy but also of a stable and buoyant economy on our continent.

Let me say to the nation, through their elected representatives here assembled, that we are committed to the total liberation of our country and indeed of our continent from economic bondage. It is a task that must be done. We all, as elected representatives of our people, owe a duty to Nigeria and to Africa. I believe that your loyalty and commitment to the survival of this country, the survival of this nation, are no less than mine. I am confident that I have already loyal partners in the service of Nigeria. Together we shall succeed in handing over to posterity a country not only more united, but also truly free and great. I thank you all. [applause]

Government Repatriates 355 Illegal Aliens

AB291610 Lagos NAN in English 1510 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Sokoto, Dec 29 (NAN) — The Federal Department of Immigration in Sokoto yesterday repatriated 335 illegal aliens arrested by a combined team of police and immigration officials in the state capital.

Addressing newsmen in Sokoto yesterday, the assistant director of immigration, Alhaji Muhammed Danmalam, said that some of the arrested aliens were found in homes of Nigerians where they were kept away from the hands of the law. He said that the illegal aliens were repatriated to their respective countries because they possessed no valid papers.

Alhaji Muhammed gave the breakdown of those repatriated as 304 from Niger Republic, six from Ghana, Benin Republic, six, and Upper Volta, three. Others included 12 from Togo, Mali three and one from Ivory Coast.

He explained that the exercise which was being carried out by his officials to flush-out illegal aliens would soon be extended to the 32 local government areas of the state.

SENEGAL

French Defense Minister Arrives in Dakar 28 Dec

AB290755 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] The French minister of defense is in Dakar. At this moment, Charles Hernu is presiding over an official dinner at the French ambassador's residence. The French defense minister arrived this afternoon and was welcomed by his counterpart, Medoune Fall. Charles Hernu said the following in an interview with our reporter Diama Cisse:

[Begin recording] [Hernu] This is a friendly visit that was scheduled long ago with the minister of defense. I am coming from Beirut, where I spent several days. Now I am here between Christmas and the New Year, which is very symbolic because it is a period of wishes and festivities. It is under the auspices of our good relations that this visit is taking place. I come not as Santa Claus, but as a friend.

[Cisse] Can you tell us briefly about the various meetings you will hold with our government leaders?

[Hernu] I will hold talks with my colleague and friend the minister of defense and with the president. I will also visit the French troops. During these talks, we will discuss issues related to training, technical assistance, and military operations. We are not facing any specific problems. We will discuss the issue of Namibia, neighboring countries, and even the Middle East. We both have soldiers in the UNIFIL in southern Lebanon. There are French and Senegalese soldiers serving there. Of course, I can tell you how these talks progressed only when they are concluded, and not before. [end recording]

UPPER VOLTA

Communique Changes Dean of Diplomatic Corps

AB281150 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0630 GMT 28 Dec 83

["Press Communique" issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs — date not given]

[Text] By letters exchanged between Captain Thomas Sankara, chairman of the National Council of the Revolution [CNR] and head of state, and His Excellency Francois Mitterrand, president of the French Republic, it has been decided — pending a formal review of the French-Upper Voltan Cooperation Treaty of 24 April 1961 — that the clause in that treaty which makes the French ambassador the dean of the diplomatic corps in Upper Volta should be suspended with immediate effect.

The CNR and the Government of Upper Volta, desirous of marking the deep attachment of revolutionary Upper Volta to the cause of African unity, and convinced that special relations should exist among African states, have decided that from now on the post of the dean of the diplomatic corps should be held by the most senior African ambassador residing in Ouagadougou.

ANGOLA

Defense Ministry Communique Notes 29 Dec RSA Raid

MB301324 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Communique issued by the Defense Ministry in Luanda on 30 December]

[Text] The Ministry of Defense of the People's Republic of Angola advises that on 29 December 1983, racist South African aircraft bombed a location in the area of Lulovo, situated in Huila Province about 16 km from the city of Lubango, injuring a number of civilians.

BOTSWANA

Minister Kwelagobe Tours Zimbabwe Border Area

MB292030 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1125 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] The minister of public service and information, Mr Daniel Kwelagobe, has completed his tour of the villages along the Botswana-Zimbabwe border, during which he assured the people of continued protection against armed intruders and asked the residents to report the movement of strangers and to desist from crossing the border illegally.

It has just been officially announced that Mr Kwelagobe's three [word indistinct] mission to the border villages was sparked off by the discoveries of two arms caches early this month on Botswana soil, one near (Butami) and other near Matsiloje. The arms cache near (Butami) was discovered on 13 December and the second cache was discovered the following day.

A spokesman of the Office of the President says the arms caches, containing substantial quantities of weapons of war, were revealed by captured Zimbabwean anti-government elements. These dissidents have been apprehended by the Botswana Defense Force [BDF] and were subsequently deported. In the presence of members of the BDF, the Botswana police, (?and the Botswana task force), the captured men identified the areas where the caches were buried.

During his various meetings, Mr Kwelagobe assured the Botswana that border patrols have been increased and that they could count on the government for continued protection against intruders. Mr Kwelagobe, however, cautioned the residents against condoning the presence of strangers in their midst. He said unknown persons should be reported without delay to the BDF or to Botswana police.

The minister explained that if people entering Botswana were genuinely seeking assistance, then the authorities of Botswana would grant such assistance, but only if their presence is reported to them. He encouraged the border residents to cooperate with the police and the BDF, adding that such cooperation would be vital in identifying genuine refugees from troublemakers. Mr Kwelagobe also asked the Batswana to refrain from crossing the border illegally. He said illegal border crossings may create security problems between the two countries.

LESOTHO

Prime Minister Jonathan Announces Election Plans

MB292033 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] The prime minister, the Right Honorable Dr Leabua Jonathan, says that in the new year the government will arrange for the last sitting of parliament, which will pave the way for the country's general elections, after which the date for the elections will be announced. The prime minister said this in an interview with Radio Lesotho yesterday. Dr Jonathan said that an amount of 2 million maluti approved by parliament for the elections will be used to draw up new electoral laws. It will be used in conducting a population census to determine the number of people eligible for elections and to draw up new constituency boundaries in keeping with the increased population since the last elections. In conclusion, Dr Jonathan said that the money will also be used in conducting the elections themselves.

MOZAMBIQUE

National Resistance Movement Issues Communique

MB300836 (Clandestine) Voice of Mozambique National Resistance in Portuguese 1700 GMT 28 Dec 83

["War Communique" issued by the chief of the General Staff of the Mozambique National Resistance — date not given]

[Text] Nampula Province:

On 29 September, our forces ambushed an enemy column in the (Metolo) area travelling from Namina to (Mocubuturi), in (Metolo). The enemy was repulsed and fled to Namina. On 5 October our forces attacked an enemy position stationed at the (Diacupala) communal village. On 10 November our combatants destroyed the (Dioloto) communal village, releasing all the civilians who were being exploited by Frelimo. On 26 November our forces attacked a communal village in the (Tolela) area, releasing all the civilians who had been interned there.

Disorganization of the Frelimo troops:

At about 0400 on 5 October, a group of Popular Armed Forces for the Liberation of Mozambique [FPLM] deserters attacked the (Marreme) barracks, which they had just deserted. A total of four FPLM soldiers were killed and many others wounded during the battle inside the barracks. On 17 November a military vehicle travelling from (Lalama) to (Marreme) went off the road, killing four FPLM soldiers and seriously wounding seven others. All the occupants were very drunk.

Zambezia Province:

On 1 October, a Frelimo military vehicle travelling from Milange to Derre detonated a landmine in the (Zalimba). A total of 8

enemy soldiers were killed and 14 wounded. On 5 November a military vehicle was destroyed after detonating a landmine on the (Munhalagui)-Mugeba national road, (Moabana) region. On the same day our forces attacked the enemy position at (Cumbapa). On 10 November our forces clashed with Frelimo troops in the (Mucoa) region and the enemy retreated. On 15 November our forces attacked the enemy position at Megaza, and on 18 November an FPLM military vehicle was destroyed between Mocuba and (Rosa). On 26 November our combatants burned a tractor some 3 km from Gurue village and our forces captured two FPLM soldiers. On 30 November our forces burned three warehouses belonging to a tea plantation near Milange. On 5 December our glorious forces attacked and occupied the FPLM position at (Posto de Banjone). Our forces captured one AK-47, one PPSH, three 7.7 weapons and one shotgun.

Frelimo crimes in Zambezia Province:

The residents of Pinda and Morrumbala areas have been fleeing into our zones and to Malawi due to persecution by Frelimo troops. A number of people have been assaulted and women raped, while others have been killed by the Frelimo bandits and criminals.

Tete Province:

On 26 September our forces ambushed the enemy near the (Mussengueze) river, killing 18 of the communists and seriously wounding 1. On 8 October our combatants ambushed and destroyed a military vehicle on the Angonia-Zobue road, (Megula) area. On 26 October our forces attacked the Frelimo position at (Condedje), killing seven FPLM soldiers and buring eight vehicles. Our forces captured 1 radio transmitter, 12 AK-47's, 3 PPSH's and 2 pistols. On 1 November our forces staged an ambush in the (Megula) area, killing three Frelimo soldiers. On 19 November our glorious forces attacked the Frelimo troops in the Mussengueze region wounding many of the enemy.

Frelimo crimes in Tete Province:

At (Condedje), FPLM forces fired heavy weapons against the civilians in the (Megula) area, wounding a number of people.

Manica Province:

On 22 November our forces attacked the enemy position at (Goncalo), capturing an AK-47 and a FPLM soldier and killing 9 FPLM soldiers. On 25 November our forces attacked the Frelimo position at (Messana) and captured one AK-47 and an assortment of military equipment. On the same day in a clash at (Chimungara), our forces captured a large quantity of military equipment from the Frelimo troops. On 28 November our forces ambushed an enemy column at (Nhamacoa), Gondola region, capturing an assortment of military equipment. On 29 November the FPLM positions in the city of Chimoio were subject to our artillery fire. On 5 December 1983 our forces attacked the enemy position at (Mocumbu), Chimoio region, capturing an assortment of military equipment. On 12 December our glorious combatants attacked and captured the enemy position at Dombe, capturing 19 AK-47's, 1 SKS, 1 LMG machine gun, and 2 RPG-7's. Our forces also destroyed two armored vehicles and two other military vehicles. On 13 December we attacked the enemy position in (Michica) with artillery fire.

Sofala Province:

On 25, 26, and 27 November 1983, we sabotaged the Beira-Malawi railway line in the (Nhambe) area. For over a month now this line has been completely closed. On 27 November 1983, following a clash at Chibongoloa, our forces captured a quantity of military materiel. On the same day we ambushed an enemy column moving from Manga to Moatize and captured nine militiamen. We attacked the enemy position at (Maxixe) the next day and captured some military equipment. On the same day, 28 November, our forces attacked and captured the Machel troop position at Inhamitanga. In this action alone 32 communist soldiers were killed and we captured 20 AK-47's, 2 RPG-7's, and a pistol. A water pump engine and an electric generator were destroyed. On 30 November we ambushed an enemy column near the railway line between Muanza and Inhaminga, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy. On 2 December 1983, our fighters ambushed enemy troops along the Maringue-Sena road, burning one BTR-152 armored car and another military vehicle. On 5 December following a clash at (Nhachiconja) the enmy took flight and we captured a quantity of military equipment. Also on 5 December we attacked the Machel troops position at Bandua with artillery fire. Again on 5 December the enemy took flight after an attack on (Macumba) and a large quantity of war materiel was captured. On 8 December we attacked the enemy position at Chibabava and captured one AK-47 weapon in addition to other war materiel. On 9 December we attacked the enemy position at Lamego with artillery fire.

Inhambane Province:

On 24 November we ambushed and burned a military vehicle along the Homoine-Pande Road killing seven of the enemy. Our fighters captured one star pistol and five AK-47 weapons.

Gaza Province:

On 5 November six enemy soldiers were killed and one captured when our fighters defended our base in the (Ande) area against an attack of the Frelimo rabble.

In this province a number of people who had been gathered by the Machel troops in Nalazi have been running away from this village commune. On 1 November the residents of the Mabalane village communes went on strike. They refused to work due to the lack of food and asked to be returned to their former villages. In the face of this situation, the local administrator, who was unable to solve the problem, committed suicide with a pistol. This is a clear example of the despair in which Machel agents find themselves. The people there are now returning to their former areas. Communist soldiers in the Macovane and Dindiza areas are now deserting and returning to their homes. The residents of the Macovane village communes are also fleeing to their former homes.

Maputo Province:

2 November 1983, our fighters launched a series of operations in (Mevue), some 80 km from Maputo, and burned two military vehicles. A total of two water pump engines, which are used to irrigate the state farms in the area, were destroyed. On 1 November, we attacked the enemy position at Muazi state farm. The Machel rabble retreated after one of their number was killed. We captured nine Mausers, two G-3's, and four SVD's. On 3 November, we attacked the enemy position at (Camangundo). The enemy retreated and eight tractors were burned. On 6 November we sabotaged the Magude-(Muala) railway line in (Maguduane) area and also destroyed three water pump engines. Following another clash with the enemy in (Jegue) area we captured two PPSH weapons. On 7 November our fighters attacked the enemy in (Chibombozi). The communist soldiers retreated and our forces captured 7 AK-47 weapons, 10 SVD weapons, 3 RPD weapons, 2 MGG weapons, 2 magazines for an AK-47, and 6 magazines for an MGG. During the fight three Machel soldiers were killed and one military vehicle was burned. On 16 November we attacked the enemy position at Massaca, and on 19 November our fighters ambushed and burned a military vehicle along the Panjane-Maele road. On 21 November we ambushed the enemy along the Magude-Mahel road and destroyed another military vehicle.

The criminal actions carried out in this province by Machel troops: The FPLM in this province are burning people's houses in the areas of (Matongamai) and (Mudgigi) to force them out of these areas and thus prevent them from rendering support to the resistance.

SOUTH AFRICA

Viljoen Announces Air Attack on SWAPO Base

MB291457 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1448 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Pretoria, Dec 29, SAPA — South African aircraft this morning attacked the main SWAPO headquarters in southern Angola and have also bombarded SWAPO missile batteries, the chief of the Defence Force, General Constand Viljoen said today.

He said four SA aircraft had attacked the base near Lubango in south-western Angola. The bombardment was not very heavy, but it had been on target and all four aircraft had returned safely.

General Viljoen said it was difficult to say whether SWAPO had sustained any casualties as the base had been well dug-in.

During a reconnaissance near Cahama, in the centre of southern Angola, SAAF jets had been fired on with sophisticated Soviet ground-to-air missiles.

The head of a SAM-9 missile had been lodged in the tail of an Impala reconnaissance aircraft, but the aircraft had returned safely to base.

General Viljoen said South African forces had reacted with artillery and aircraft bombardment.

"Our purpose in these bombardments was to destroy the missile sites," General Viljoen told a press conference.

It was also difficult to assess the damage to these sites as low-level reconaissance was not possible after such bombardments.

"But we have established that quite a number of radar have been put out of action," he said.

Asked who was manning the missile sites, General Viljoen said they were largely operated by SWAPO forces, but could also be manned by Cubans.

The operation began on December 6 to pre-empt SWAPO's seasonal infiltration of northern SWA/Namibia, the defence chief said.

The SADF had received positive information that seven companies of SWAPO forces had deployed from Lubango on their way to the border. The Defence Force had reacted by attacking the SWAPO infrastructure, by conducting reconnaissance missions deep into Angola, by hunting for arms caches and by trying to isolate the SWAPO companies from Angolan strongpoints where they gained support.

General Viljoen said the isolation and reconnaissance tactics had met with reasonable success.

"We have stopped the possibility of them (SWAPO) moving down in vehicles as they have done in the past.

"This time, they couldn't afford to come closer than Jamba, which makes it so much farther to move on foot to Namibia."

He said South African and SWA Territory Force troops had formed defensive lines on the northern SWA/Namibian border to counter any infiltration by SWAPO.

He added that since the start of the operation, eight South African and SWATF troops had been killed and one was missing.

Details of Press Conference

MB291743 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1709 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Pretoria, Dec 29, SAPA — South African jets today bombed SWAPO's main headquarters in southern Angola and were ready to strike again if necessary, the chief of the SADF [South African Defense Force], General Constand Viljoen, said today.

He told a press conference in Pretoria that South African aircraft and artillery had also pounded Cuban and SWAPO-manned missile sites after being fired on during reconnaissance missions.

"The main defence headquarters of SWAPO, near Lubango (in south-western Angola) was attacked this morning by bombing it with four aircraft," the general said. "The purpose of the raid was to disrupt SWAPO's ability to control its operations during its latest seasonal offensive in northern South-West Africa."

South African jets had been fired on with "the most modern Russian anti-aircraft missiles" during the reconnaissance over Cahama, south-Western Angola, and the head of a SAM-9 missile had been lodged in the tail of an Impala jet.

The missile had not exploded, and the jet had returned safely to base, General Viljoen said.

The aircraft used in today's attack also returned to base undamaged.

"The enemy will say that we bombed and missed Lubango airfield or hit civilian targets inside Angola or that they shot down one or more of our aircraft," General Viljoen said.

"But none of our planes were lost. Not a Mirage.

We had to attack the SWAPO HQ as this is part of their normal infra-structure."

The base was situated near Lubango airfield because of the protection of Angolan anti-aircraft batteries and ground cover, but the South African fighters had not attacked the airport, General Viljoen said.

The defence chief said it was difficult to assess damage to the base, SWAPO's main logistical and training centre.

"The base was well-dug in, and I would be surprised if there were many casualties. But we have sent them the message, and we are ready to attack again if necessary," General Viljoen said.

"We expected to at least dislocate their activities."

The general denied that South African troops, who he said had been in southern Angola since December 6, had deliberately engaged Angolan forces.

Scuffles with the Angolans had taken place almost daily because of SWAPO's dependence on MPLA forces for logistical and defensive support.

But the Angolans had deployed Russian tanks in Angola and "if we had any aggressive intentions against the Angolans, we would have used tanks too."

General Viljoen said eight SADF and SWA Territory Force soldiers had been killed in the latest operations. Another man had been missing since last week.

The operation had been launched after the SADF received positive information that seven companies of SWAPO had been deployed from points south-east of Jamba in central southern Angola.

"We have conducted reconnaissance wide and deep into the area, and if you have 1,000 or more terrorists coming into South-West Africa it is obviously in your interest to locate and destroy them."

The general said that, apart from this morning's raid and last week's attack on a SWAPO base at Cahana, the SADF was also hunting for arms caches, trying to isolate SWAPO insurgents from Angolan strongpoints and forming defensive lines on the northern SWA/Namibian border to counter any successful infiltration.

"We accept the possibility that groups of two or three may get through just south or north of the border, but we will meet them in the south and certainly turn them back," General Viljoen said.

He was "very optimistic" that the intensity of the operation could be scaled down in about a week.

"We expect a change for the good in a few days time. I don't think it will be too long before it is sorted out, he said.

SWAPO forces could follow any of three courses of action in response to the latest SADF operation, General Viljoen said.

They could break up into groups of two or three and try to infiltrate SWA/Namibia, in which case South African troops would drive them back.

They could decide it was unsafe to continue the offensive and return to base, which would force South Africa to scale down its operation until SWAPO relaunched its offensive.

Or they could split up and try to reach the safety of Angolan strongpoints, but South African troops would try to prevent that.

South African and SWATF troops had been up to 250 km into Angola in the latest operation. He denied Angolan claims that his men had occupied the town of Cassinga in the south of the country.

SADF troops had been through Cassinga and clashed with SWAPO forces there but had moved on, he said.

There had been 52 confirmed SWAPO dead in some 50 clashes with security forces since December 6, but there could be more.

South Africa did not like operating in southern Angola.

"But as little as the United States can afford a Grenada on its doorstep, so little can we accept that enemies of those who we are protecting (in SWA/Namibia) can have carte blanche to operate across the border, the general said.

SWAPO Seen in Decline

MB291825 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1805 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Pretoria, Dec 29, SAPA — SWAPO had "taken a dip" since 1978 and was no longer a serious factor militarily, the chief of the SADF, General Constand Viljoen, said today. He told a press conference in Pretoria that since SADF actions against it in 1978, SWAPO had fewer trained men and more immature fighters in its ranks.

However, SWAPO's political body, SWAP, remained a force to be reckoned with.

"Our purpose is therefore to keep them out of SWA/Namibia so that the political process there can continue unhampered," General Viljoen said.

Lt Gen Gleeson Remarks
MB291832 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1750 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Pretoria, Dec 29, SAPA — SWAPO's latest seasonal attempt to infiltrate SWA/Namibia was about a month earlier than usual because of good rains, but followed the pattern of previous operations, a senior SADF officer said today. Lieutenant-General Ian Gleeson, chief of staff operations of the SADF, told a press conference that SWAPO annually committed its worst atrocities in SWA/Namibia in the first three months of the year.

This coincided with the rainy season, which provided good cover for the organisation's movements. The rains had come early this season and the SADF had last month received intelligence that SWAPO had begun preparing for a large-scale incursion. Reports were received of up to 1,400 troops being assembled, given new training and preparation at bases near the towns of Lubango, Jamba, Cassinga, and Cahama, in southern Angola. The SADF had launched its current operation in southern Angola to preempt this strike, General Gleeson said.

Supreme Court Convicts Gerhardts of High Treason
MB291729 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] The former commanding officer of the naval dockyard at Simonstown, Dieter Gerhardt, and his Swiss-born wife, Ruth, have been convicted of high treason by the Cape Town Supreme Court. The verdict in the trial, which took place *in camera*, was delivered this afternoon. The case arose from alleged espionage on behalf of the Soviet Union and the maintenance of a communications network for this purpose. The court is to hear evidence in mitigation tomorrow, after which sentence is to be passed.

Espionage Reportedly Admitted
MB292023 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1930 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] After the conviction of former Commander Dieter Gerhardt and his wife, Ruth, of high treason, Justice Munnik said at a press conference that Gerhardt had admitted in defense that he had been involved in espionage since 1962. However, Gerhardt had said that he had worked for a country he did not wish to identify, although the country was not hostile to South Africa. The court had also rejected Ruth Gerhardt's defense that she was under duress to do as her husband told her. According to legal sources, mitigating evidence would probably take all day tomorrow, and sentence will only be passed after that.

ZAMBIA

Cuban Envoy Reaffirms Support for SWAPO, ANC
AB301050 Dakar PANA in English 1032 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Lusaka, 30 Dec (ZANA/PANA) — Cuba has reaffirmed its support for liberation movements in southern Africa and said it will keep its troops in Angola and Ethiopia as long as they are required. The pledge for continued support was made here last night by the Cuban ambassador to Zambia, Heriberto Feraudy, when he addressed students and staff at the United Nations Institute for Namibia.

Mr Feraudy said Cuba will continue to support liberation struggles being waged by the South-West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) and the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa until victory is achieved.

"We will never fail you," Mr Feraudy assured representatives of the two liberation movements, adding that Cuban troops will also stay in Angola and Ethiopia as long as they were needed by the governments of these states.

Racist South Africa with the support of the United States has used the presence of Cuban troops in Angola to stall the granting of independence to Namibia. The idea has been rejected by Africa, the Nonaligned Movement, the Commonwealth and all progressive countries.

The Cuban ambassador explained that his country does not like war as it prefers to live in peace. But history has shown that in certain circumstances people have to shed blood to maintain their peace, he said.

Delivering a message of solidarity to the ambassador on the same occasion, SWAPO member of the Central Committee Dr Mose Tjitender said the Cuban revolution continues to be a source of inspiration to all oppressed people.